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BUDGET, TRADE, DEVELOPMENT DATA REPORTED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic 1 Jan 80 pp 16-21, 38-39, 60

[Articles from "AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI's 1979 Dossier"]

[Text] This dossier which we are presenting to you today includes the most prominent economic developments which occurred in Egypt in the year 1979.

The most prominent indication of Egypt's economic path during last year was the influx of a large volume of foreign loans and aid as a result of a continuation along the road of economic reform and confidence on the part of the outside world in the Egyptian economy, which had its culmination in the meetings of the international advisory group last 19 December.

The Egyptian economy also achieved a high rate of growth, as is stated by the World Bank, and here we note the success which it had without the backing of other Arab countries, and likewise the year 1979 witnessed able guidance in many economic policies, especially in the field of importing goods. Perhaps all this success in the management of the Egyptian economy is giving it the capability to enable it to meet the new year with the capacity to be transformed into [an economy of] prosperity, and to be completely prepared for an important new phase which it is entering due to the normalization of relations with Israel.

What happened to the path of Egypt's economy during the course of the year?

A Budget Without the Backing of Other Arab Countries

The 1979 budget had no figures showing the support of other Arab countries. In the Baghdad conference the rejectionist states met and decided to cut off their support to Egypt in retaliation for its signing of the peace treaty. As was explained by Dr Mustafa Khalil, the prime minister, these countries decided to cease offering any loans, deposits, guarantees, banking aid, or any financial, material, or technical contributions. [These countries also decided] to prohibit offers of economic aid from

Arab banks, funds, and financial institutions, and decided that the Arab governments and agencies would refrain from acquiring bonds, stocks, money orders and public debt loans which are issued by the Egyptian government and its financial institutions. These countries also decided to suspend Egypt's membership in the institutions, funds, and organizations originating in the Arab League and to cease using its bank.

Dr Hamid al-Sayih, the minister of finance, economic cooperation, and foreign trade, stated that these funding institutions stopped the financing of projects which they had previously agreed to finance, but the government did not allow these projects to stop, but rather made efforts to arrange to obtain the necessary funds in order to make up for the Arab financing [which was lost].

Al-Sayih added that the positions taken by these funding institutions, with regard to Egyptian projects, were as follows:

Projects financed by the Saudi Fund: $13.5 million for development of the railroads, $11.9 million for textile development, $20.6 million for expansion of the Suez Canal, and $8.2 million for the wire and wireless communications project--the total being $54.2 million. The [Saudi] Fund demanded a change in manner of withdrawal [of funds] so that the Egyptian government would undertake to first pay the amounts to the depositors and then demand that the Fund replace the amounts after they have been paid.

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development: The total value of the projects which were supposed to be financed is $58.6 million. This includes $3.6 million for the Talkha fertilizer project, $14.8 million for expansion of the Suez Canal, $7.9 million for expansion of the Turah cement plant, and $32.3 million for the Kafr al-(Dawwar) textile project. After the decision made by the Fund's board, there was no approval to grant new credits. In addition to this, [there was no approval forthcoming concerning] commitments about which it was previously agreed that when their period of validity ended, the Fund would continue financing the credits whose period of validity had not ended.

The Kuwaiti Fund: Which finances projects, the total value of which amounts to $23.7 million. They include $6.1 million for the Talkha fertilizer project, and $17.6 million for expansion of the Suez Canal. The Fund has continued to honor its commitments but with some delay.

The Abu Dhabi Fund: Which finances one project--$14.5 million for expansion of the Suez Canal. The Fund has continued to finance withdrawal transactions.

The Islamic Bank: Which finances one project--$9 million for expansion of the Suez Canal.

Honoring Foreign Commitments

Egypt undertook to provide the necessary financing for all of its import needs, including consumer, intermediate, and investment, during 1979. Total payments for imports during the period from January to September 1979 amounted to 3.352 billion [Egyptian] pounds, as compared with the total of 2.518 billion pounds for the same period in 1978. Income from exports, during the same period, increased from 913 million pounds to 1.173 billion pounds.

Unforeseen transactions brought a surplus amounting to 1.140 billion pounds in the period from January to September 1979, as compared with the amount of 1,094 [billion pounds] for the same period of the previous year. Thus, the deficit of current transactions for this period totaled 1.039 billion pounds. The deficit was totally covered by means of private sources of income such as advance financing for cotton and the utilization of aid granted through economic cooperation agreements.

Egypt also undertook to pay 1.160 million pounds of its liabilities due to be paid to the cash administration office in the Central Bank, during the period from January to October 1979.

Increase in Capability to Absorb Loans

One of the problems faced by the Egyptian economy was lack of foreign financing, and this was why Egypt resorted to taking out foreign loans in order to finance its projects. By the end of 1979 these loans totaled more than $11 billion. The volume of loans and aid increased from $1.6 billion in 1978 to more than $2 billion in 1979, of which $1,092,500,000 was provided by the United States, $147 million by West Germany, $32.1 million by the United Kingdom, $247 million by France, $31.9 million by the Netherlands, $3.5 million by Belgium, and $109.6 million by Japan. The total in loans provided by these countries was $1,664,400,000.

The volume of loans from international financing institutions amounted to $400.4 million. Of this, $297.5 million was from the International Bank for Construction and Development and the International Development Agency, $18.4 million was from the African Development Bank and Fund, and $84.5 million was from the European Investment Bank.

So the total figure for loans and grants, for which agreements have been signed since January 1979, is about $2,064,800,000, of which $647.7 million consists of grants not to be repaid. Lately the question has been raised concerning the ability of the Egyptian economy to absorb foreign loans because of a number of obstacles, such as a lack of clear priorities or the changing of these priorities after signing the loan agreements, in addition to the lengthy procedure of ratification of agreements concerning loans and aid.

But Jamal al-Nasir, the minister of state for economic cooperation, assured, in his statement before the People's Assembly, that the rate of drawing the loans and grants which were offered had increased from $2.5 million [dollars] a day, in 1977 to $4 million in 1979. He added that efforts were being undertaken to deal with the obstacles which decreased the range of our capability to absorb loans, in particular by means of:

--Not being committed to loans which provide foreign money except after being certain that the project has been included in the plan and that the necessary financing from local money has been authorized in the government's public budget.

--Hastening the preparation of advance economic studies for projects concerning which contracts are to be concluded.

--Being prompt in the procedures of giving notice to bidders and deciding on the bids.

--Following up, in the field, the execution of these contracts, monitoring the construction and installation work in each project, in accordance with its set time schedule.

--Reexamining some of the conditions for use of the loans, for the purpose of saving time that is consumed by procedures necessary for implementing these conditions.

Imports Are 50 Percent of the National Product

During 1979 the prices of our imports increased due to the disturbances which took place in the world economy and to inflation, resulting from this, which was reflected in the rise in production costs and in the prices of commodities in common use. Among the import prices which rose are the following: wheat and wheat flour went up about 70 percent; [cooking] oil, more than 40 percent; meat, 40 percent; animal fats, about 40 percent; and the prices of various production necessities increased at rates varying between 20 and 40 percent. In addition to this, [there was the increase in] prices of some petroleum products that we import, such as butane gas, the price of which has increased several-fold around the world. The volume of our imports totaled about 50 percent of our total national product, whereas the volume of exports was about 28 percent.

2.5 Billion Pounds of Capital for the Open-Door Policy Projects

Following the development and direction of the economic opendoor policy projects has elucidated the following facts: The number of projects that the Investment Agency agreed to set up by the end of October 1979 was 1,031 projects, the capital for which totals 2.5 billion pounds; 723 of the projects are inside the country and 308 of them are in free-trade zones.

These projects will provide 150,000 job opportunities after their construction has been completed, including 4,000 opportunities for foreign commissions.

As for the projects whose activities have already begun and are under way, their total is 767, with a capital of 1.6 billion pounds. The Egyptians' share in the projects which have been approved is about 57 percent. Investment costs for projects approved by the Investment Agency during the period from January to the end of October 1979 totaled 754 million pounds inside the country and 136 million pounds for projects in the free-trade zones. This is in comparison to 479 million pounds, and 78 million, for the same period in 1978.

And Jamal al-Nazir, the minister of state for economic cooperation, indicated in his statement before the People's Assembly that the number of projects [for which funds were] drawn on since the agency began its activity up till now, equals 267, of which 197 are inside the country and 70 are in the free-trade zones.

As for banks and their branches which were established within the scope of the investment law, they totaled, by the end of October 1979, 40 banks--of which 22 banks deal in foreign and local currency, and 18 are branches of foreign banks. The total in long-term loans, offered by these banks to projects set up within the scope of the investment law concerning Arab and foreign capital, reached a figure of more than $25 million. The government has decided to lessen the expansion in setting up banks within the scope of this law, with the exception of particular cases. the most important being the banks which are totally owned by Egyptians working in foreign countries.

Also, during 1979, the Central Bank of Egypt issued a decision to restrict the transactions of public sector and government corporations to only public sector banks, in order that these transactions not be transferred to foreign banks.

Controlling Imports Without Currency Conversion

Considerable discussion arose after the publication of Decision No 600 which was issued by the minister of economics and what ensued from it in terms of regulations which oblige the importer to replace the equivalent of the customs fees that are payable on goods which are imported without conversion of currency, and this is to be done in free currencies in the four national banks.

This decision aimed at limiting the import of luxury goods, and simultaneously providing the necessary foreign currency to import the intermediate and investment goods that are necessary for growth. The decision also aimed at expansion of imports by means of a system of open permits,

that is, directly through the banks. The decision eliminated import permits via import committees and allowed the importer to import directly through customs, provided that he furnishes [customs] all the documents that he used to furnish to the import committees. Some people were afraid that, after the decision came out, the value of the dollar would rise on the market, and [were afraid] of what this would entail in terms of an increase in the value of the Egyptian pound. Also, some people criticized the decision, considering that it would burden merchants with additional expenses, due to the purchasing of currencies from the free market, and these rates would be deducted from their profits. The customs department also criticized the decision on the basis that it would have to shoulder new burdens, that the decision would lead to a decrease in performance efficiency, and that the decision would increase smuggling through Port Sa-id and other outlets. But the minister of economics and those in charge of cash flow assured that the purpose of the decision is to provide foreign currency revenue, in order to enable the government to finance the import of goods which were being imported by means of an import system without currency conversion, and consequently achieve a gradual decrease in the volume of goods that come under this system. They assured that the demand for the dollar on the private exchange market will decrease, that this will stop the rise in its price and the price of the other free currencies in this market, and that this will make the difference between their price and the incentive price very small, which would lead to preventing the leakage of [money] transfers, by Egyptians abroad, into the country by other than official means.

Moreover, the import of commercial samples and spare parts that are imported to replace damaged ones has been exempted from the payment of customs fees in hard currency, and later on to this group were added consumer durable goods, being brought in for personal use, if their value does not exceed 50 Egyptian pounds.

Activating the Circulation of Egptian Exports

The circulation of Egyptian exports, especially nontraditional commodities, and an effort to open up new markets for them in Europe and America--this was the basic point of discussion in several conferences dealing with these commodities. These conferences took place with the participation of the European Common Market in order to understand the needs and tastes of the consumers of this market. In order for the government to provide the necessary information, reports and services to help the exporters, it undertook to set up a center for export development, headed by the minister of economics and foreign trade. He is setting up a system of collecting and publishing information of importance to exporters, analyzing export production potential and the absorption capacities of foreign markets, and setting up a system of training to provide and develop capabilities that are required by the field of export. For this reason the center includes representatives from all sectors of production, industry, and commerce, as

well as a group of skilled craftsmen. The center has sponsored two study groups dealing with commodities, shoes, flowers, medicinal plants, and Khan al-Khalili. It will be preparing other study group sessions dealing with the other, nontraditional commodities. The purpose of this is to grant Egyptian exporters the opportunity to come to agreements with European importers concerning commercial deals.

Egypt Has One Million More People

On 1 June 1979 Egypt's population totaled 41 million, and this is due to a population increase of half a million in the space of less than 5 months. Cairo's population totaled 5,414,000. It is worth mentioning that if the present rate of population increase continues in Egypt, in the year 2000 its population will be close to 66 million.

Specific Taxes Or a Uniform Tax?

Since Tax Reform Law No 46 came out in 1978, there have been constant discussions about the philosophy of Egypt's system of taxation, especially after the increase in commercial activity and tax evasion. For this reason, many conferences were held to discuss a suitable tax system for Egypt. Some people appealed for the application of a uniform tax instead of the specific taxes that have been applied for 40 years. People holding this opinion said that this is a sound approach toward achieving just taxation and guaranteeing that the government would receive its share, provided that the taxation agency's capability to compile and collect be guaranteed. For this, a period of interruption is necessary. Opponents to this system expressed their fear of the probability of harm to the public treasury if the uniform tax is applied, especially since we have no appropriate taxation agency and are lacking in tax-consciousness. At this point there also arose the issue of a philosophy concerning whether or not the uniform tax violates Islamic law, which is based on the principle of diversity.

In spite of this the minister of finance has announced that the government is preparing studies concerning a new bill for direct domestic taxation in order to achieve just taxation, facilitate matters for financiers, encourage savings and investment, and fix [tax] assessment and revenue collection.

Likewise, the ministry of finance undertook the preparation of a sales tax bill which would take production fee taxes, consumer taxes, duty, and price differences, and include them all into one tax, the base of which would be expanded to include some of the nonessential commodities at simple rates within the range of 5 percent of their value. Also the ministry is undertaking the operation of a comprehensive tax compilation for financiers of all sectors. It is more or less the first tax compilation of its kind since 1954, and the operation has already uncovered many of the numerous tax evasion activities.

At the same time, right now discussions are going on inside the Ministry of Finance concerning a review of the system of specific assignments, and the probability of revising the system of geographical assignments.

A Customs Bill and an Increase in Customs Revenue

Finally, before the end of last year a new customs law bill appeared, containing 172 paragraphs, in an effort to stop opportunities for smuggling, limit exemptions, consolidate revenue collection operations, and to facilitate customs procedures. The new bill includes the formation of a customs tariff council which would determine tariffs. The bill prohibits the setting up of new free-trade zones for storing consumer goods and [provides for] the charging of [offenders] with the crime of smuggling and granting of judicial police powers to customs officials who pursue smuggled goods on which customs fees have not been paid. The bill also aims at controlling customs exemptions, especially for free-trade zone projects.

The bill was presented to such industrial sectors as the Industrial Association and the chambers of commerce.

New Oil Wells

By the end of last November 22 new oil wells had been discovered. With the addition of these reserves, Egypt's petroleum reserves total about 315 million tons, that is, the equivalent of about 2.2 billion barrels, having a value of about $60 billion.

A Million Barrels a Day in 1983

The plan for petroleum production aims at achieving a goal of a million barrels a day, or 500 million tons a year, by 1983. It is worth mentioning that Egyptian petroleum and gas production increased from 8.5 million tons in 1973 to 27 million tons in 1979. Last 25 November [Egypt] received the (Shi'ab) 'Ali [oil] field on the Gulf of Suez which Israel had begun to produce from in March 1978. Its rate of production reached about 38,000 barrels a day, but technical studies have confirmed that its production rate should be decreased and that all the necessary technical means should be implemented to [achieve] a healthy rate of production and to complete development of the oil field.

Increase in Petroleum Consumption

Consumption of petroleum products increased by 71 percent during the years 1973-1979. The total consumption of petroleum products in 1973 amounted to 6,583,000 tons, in 1975 it was 7,358,000 tons, in 1977 it totaled 9,071,000 tons, and in 1979 the figure was 11,234,000 tons. The increase

shows up noticeably in butane gas, most of which is imported, and the increase also appears in gasoline, solar oil, and mazut. For example, butane gas is sold on the local market at less than 14 percent of the cost of importing it, whereas the local mazut price does not exceed 8 percent of its price on the world market.

Surplus in the Balance of Petroleum Payments

The difference in what we pay and what we receive for petroleum imports and exports has changed from being a deficit in the years 1973-1975 to being a surplus, which has started to grow and will reach a total of about $1.5 billion in 1980. The deficit figure reached 47.5 million pounds in 1973. It rose to 91.7 million pounds in 1974, then was 27.1 million pounds in 1975. In 1976 it turned into a surplus of 122.3 million pounds, in 1977 it was 213.5 million pounds, in 1978 it was 281.5 million pounds, and in 1979 it was 840 million pounds. By the end of 1980 it is expected that the surplus will total 1.044 billion pounds.

The Agricultural Situation

The production per feddan of cotton fibre increased to 8.08 kantars in 1979, with an increase of 2.48 kantars per feddan above the 1977 figure. The amount of it that was produced totaled about 9,650,000 kantars in 1979, as compared with 7,974,000 kantars in 1977, giving an increase of 1,676,000 kantars over 1977. This is in spite of a decrease in area [planted] of about 230,000 feddans, as compared with 1977. The increase in value of 1979's cotton crop, for the national economy and at world prices, is estimated at about 167 million pounds more than the crop of 1977, apart from the increase in production of cottonseed oil and cottonseed oil cakes, which is estimated at about 100,000 tons.

The summer rice crop that was produced amounted to about 2,436,000 tons in 1979, as compared with 2,270,000 tons in 1977, giving an increase of 166,000 tons over 1977, with the same amount of area planted in both years. The increase in value of 1979's rice crop, for the national economy and at world prices, is estimated at about 30 million pounds more than the crop of 1977, as a result of the increase in exports of white rice totaling about 110,000 tons. Likewise, the average production per feddan increased to 2.4 tons in 1979, giving an increase of 0.21 tons per feddan as compared with 1977.

The production per feddan of Indian corn increased to 12.5 ardebs in 1979, giving an increase of 0.65 ardebs per feddan as compared with 1977. The amount of Indian corn produced in 1979 was about 177,300 [sic] ardebs, as compared with 156,780 ardebs in 1977, giving an increase of 202,500 ardebs over 1977.

The average production per feddan of soybeans increased from 770 kilograms per feddan in 1978 to 1 ton per feddan in 1979, giving an increase of 0.21 tons more than in 1978 and 0.33 tons more than in 1977. The total soybean

production of 1979 was 95,660 tons, an increase of 34,000 tons over 1978, when production reached 61,825 tons. The increase in crop value is estimated at about 7 million pounds.

International Testimony to the Strength of Egypt's Economy

At the end of the meetings of the advisory group in Paris, the participating countries announced that they would continue to support the Egyptian economy and would increase their financial and technical contribution. Other countries assured that they would maintain their aid and assistance at their present level during the coming year.

Munir (Bnjnk), vice-president of the World Bank and chairman of the meeting, announced that Egypt's reliance on foreign aid has begun to decrease during the last 3 years, during which time Egypt has achieved high rates of growth. Positions of the [various] governments turned out to be as follows:

--The United States: An offer of $1.2 billion in the form of foodstuffs, projects, and intermediate goods, and most of this aid has easy terms. Also, [the United States] announced that it would seek to lighten the conditions of some of these loans.

--The World Bank for Construction and Development: The bank announced that its loans would vary between $350 and $400 million in the 1979-1980 budget, that it would double its financing of agricultural projects such that it would amount to 30 percent of the total in loans instead of 15 percent, and that it would concentrate on seven projects, proposed by Egypt, which are in the fields of energy and industry, especially small industries. Also, at the middle of the coming year, the bank will finish its preparation of the economic study dealing with the phosphates of Abu (Trtur), which will involve a cost of about $11 million.

--The International Finance Organization: During the last 2 years alone has been financing five projects in the field of industry, glass panes, and beet sugar in an area equaling 50,000 feddans. It contributed about $200 million to these projects, and based on its successful experience with Egypt, it is seeking to share in large-scale projects with the bank, including the construction of a cement plant, a steel plant, and hotels in Luxor and Alexandria. These are projects that will cost about $1.2 billion, and it is expected that [the International Finance Organization] will contribute about $200 million to them.

--Belgium: Has agreed to offer 120 million francs as advance payments of 25 percent of a total which will amount to 400 million francs. This agreement has already actually been signed, and these sums represent aid with no interest payments; payments will not be due for 10 years, and after that payments will be made during a period of 30 years.

--Canada: Will offer 21 million Canadian dollars, apart from loans that will total 200 million [Canadian] dollars granted on commercial terms, for the purpose of importing from Canada.

--France: Announced its decision to continue to offer aid to Egypt in three areas. The first is aid for importing wheat and flour, which during the current year has totaled 700 million francs. The second is 15 million francs of aid in foodstuffs and about 33,000 tons of wheat. The third area of aid is projects totaling about 1.1 billion francs, and both Egypt and France will negotiate the program for next year.

--West Germany: Its representative announced that Egypt is occupying second place in Germany's foreign aid program, that it will contribute large amounts of capital, and that the German-Egyptian committee will meet next March to determine how much financing is needed. This year Germany is offering 250 million marks in the form of projects and goods, in addition to 15 million marks of technical aid.

--Italy: Offered a loan worth 40 million dollars, and will increase its aid in foodstuffs from 10,000 tons of wheat and flour to about 30,000 tons. Technical aid will increase to more than $2 million.

--Japan: Its total aid to Egypt, from 1973 till now, has been 130 billion yen. During the coming year it will determine its [aid] contribution by means of bilateral negotiations. During 1979 [the aid] totaled $160 million [dollars], in the form of projects and goods.

--Holland: Will offer $14 million of technical aid, and, in order to lighten the burden on Egypt, has decided to lower the rate of interest to 2.5 percent instead of 3.75 percent.

--Britain: Its aid totaled $50 million [dollars], and it has announced that next year's aid will be on the same level.

--The European Common Market: Has announced the completion of the implementation of the protocol signed with Egypt, providing for aid totaling $240 million, in addition to foodstuffs aid amounting to 900,000 tons of wheat, fats, and oils. The European Investment Bank will complete the implementation of loans of about $130 million, of which $32.5 million has actually been paid for the Suez Canal [project], the same amount [has been paid] to the Shibra al-Khayma electrical [project], and about $20 million has gone to projects in the private sector. The remainder, which amounts to about $35 million, will be allocated in 1980 for financing the al-Siba 'iya phosphate projects, and the (al-Tub al-Tifli) project. Representatives of the European Investment Bank have said that the rate of withdrawal of these loans is proceeding at a high rate of efficiency and according to the schedule set.

Decrease of 50 Percent in Allocations for Propaganda and Publishing

In order to control public expenditures and eliminate extra expenditures, the Ministry of Finance has decided, in the new proposed budget, to decrease the allocations for publishing and propaganda and to make available the equivalent of 50 percent of the allocations of 1979. Also to be decreased are the increases which had been previously decided upon for the government agencies, [and the decrease will amount to] a rate of 10 percent of increases not directly connected with production.

Elimination of [Financial] Support for Newsprint and Other Commodities

Dr 'Ali Lutfi, the minister of finance, announced that the 1980 budget has eliminated [financial] support for newsprint which, in 1979, totaled about 5 million pounds. Also eliminated was the support that was allocated to deal with increases that are the result of the increase in the prices of purchasing cotton from the farmers, and they were 30 million pounds in the 1979 budget. Also canceled was the aid granted to the Egyptian Maritime Navigation Company, which was 5 million pounds last year.

On the other hand, it was decided to retain the support allocated for the Middle East News Agency, which amounts to 1.3 million pounds. And [it was decided] to add aid for the differences in interest rates for cooperative consumer loans, and that the government would furnish a million pounds for this purpose in the 1980 budget.

The Story of [Price] Supports in the Public Budget

Price support aid began in 1960, with an amount of 9 million pounds, and at that time it was restricted to a limited number of commodities, but it began to expand until it included a large number of goods and services. Its cost began to increase, year after year, until it reached a maximum figure of 642 million pounds in 1967. Since 1973, until now, price support figures for foodstuffs have multiplied such that the figures, in millions of pounds, have totaled: 112.538, 317.173, 449.265, 352.437, 404.153, 368.277, and 896.7 million pounds--and these are the figures for the years from 1973 to 1979, consecutively.

Wheat and flour account for large shares of these amounts. The price supports for wheat in 1973 totaled about 70.815 million pounds, and by 1979 this figure had jumped to above 480.30 million pounds. Flour [price supports] were 9.393 million pounds, and this figure jumped to 106.8 million pounds during this same [6-year] period. It is expected that this figure will increase in the 1980 budget after the rise in world prices of wheat.

Elimination of the Emergency Fund Budget

Dr 'Ali Lutfi, the minister of finance in his report to the People's Assembly, announced the elimination of the emergency fund budget and said that its allocations would be transferred to the appropriate ministries.

It is worth mentioning that the emergency fund budget was a temporary budget that was necessitated by the circumstances that prevailed after 1967. In view of the fact that the peace agreement has put an end to these circumstances, the government has decided to eliminate this budget and bring the situation of the public budget back to what it was originally.

Special Surcharge Tax on Capital Profits and Commercial and Industrial Profits

The People's Assembly ratified a law which imposes a Jihad tax on profits earned from [personal] movable capital, on commercial and industrial profits, and on wage earnings. The law, which was formulated by the Ministry of Finance, includes the imposition of a tax of 2.5 percent on annual net profit which is subject to the commercial and industrial profits tax, or the tax on noncommercial [professional] businesses, and exceeds 600 pounds a year. If the annual net profit exceeds the exemption limit without exceeding its fundable, then the tax is not applicable except in the case of what exceeds this limit. If the net profit exceeds the fundable of the exemption limit, then the financier may not utilize the exemption, provided that what he has left, after paying taxes, not be less than what is left for a financier who earns less profits than he does.

Natural Gas--Does It Complement or Compete with Butane Gas?

About 5 months from now natural gas will be entering Egypt's households for the first time. Last November there took place the signing of the contract concerning the construction of a network of pipes which will transport this gas from the Abu al-Gharadiq field in the Western Desert to homes in Madinat Nasr, Heliopolis, al-Ma'adi, and Hulwan.

The contract was signed between an Egyptian company and an English company which specializes in laying down natural gas pipelines. During the course of next August, the gas will have entered 8,000 households in the areas chosen, and also the Wafa' and Amal power stations will be put into operation. During the next 4 years, the number of houses in these areas into which natural gas will enter will increase to 300,000 households, all of which will be able to rely on this gas to provide their energy needs.

What do petroleum sector officials say as to the reason for choosing the areas Hulwan, al-Ma'adi, Madinat Nasr, and Heliopolis as a first stage during which their houses will be supplied with natural gas?

'Abd al'Hadi Qindil, deputy chief of the National Petroleum Agency in charge of operations, says:

[Answer] The reason for this can be found in several factors: These areas are considered to be in the environs of Cairo. The homes in these areas and on their streets are considered to be suitable for beginning the implementation of the project. [There are the factors of] current and future housing expansion in these areas, and the possibility of preparing [the new homes] for the network of natural gas lines, as is done with other utilities such as electricity, water and telephones. [There are the factors of] ease in beginning the implementation of the network in these areas and its compatibility with the other utilities such as the systems of water, electricity, and telephones.

Implementation procedures are presently beginning to take place, and it is expected that the whole project will be completed by 1982.

[Question] Can we say that there is a saving which results from the household use of natural gas?

[Answer] The initial quantities of natural gas intended to be used are estimated at about 200,000 cubic meters per day, which is the equivalent of about 80 tons of butane gas per day. [The initial quantities] will gradually increase to 600,000 cubic meters per day, that is, the equivalent of about 240 tons of butane gas per day, the cost of which, at present import prices, is about $120,000 [dollars] daily.

[Question] Has an estimate been made of the prices of delivering natural gas to the consumer?

[Answer] The pricing policy is always subject to planning on the level of the government, which very often onsiders it proper to give [financial] support to the producer in order to achieve [price] stability for the consumer. There is no doubt that the government will give special attention to estimating the costs of serving the consumers, as it is presently doing in the case of the other petroleum products.

[Question] Why cannot liquefied gas (butane gas) be produced from natural gas, considering the huge amounts of it that are imported and the rise in its prices?

[Answer] The components of the natural gas in the fields that have been discovered and exploited at the present time, which are methane and ethane, are considered to be the basis, since they represent about 90 percent of the components of natural gas. The remaining percentage consists of heavy hydrocarbon components that are extracted in the form of concentrates which are redistilled into gasoline, kerosene, and solar oil. However, since there is a considerable percentage of propane and butane [gas] in the gas

of the Abu al-Gharadiq field, this percentage is extracted and then it is transported to stations where it is put into butane gas cylinders. This is the basis on which the petroleum agency provides for ideal exploitation, as much as possible, of the utilization of the natural gas components.

[Question] What is the future of natural gas in Egypt? And is there evidence of new discoveries?

[Answer] The three existing gas fields are considered the nucleus for exploring for new fields rich in gas. This is supported by current evidence, in addition to the Delta area's great potential which is very promising.

[Question] What are our natural gas reserves? And are we able to say that we are on the way toward spreading their utilization?

[Answer] Our present reserves consist of:

--The Abu Madi gas fields. The fields' reserves total 20 billion cubic meters, which is sufficient for consumption for a period of 20 years, based on a rate of extracting 3 million cubic meters a day. Its gas is fed to the fertilizer plants in Talkha in order to replace the naphtha, which is being exported. Also, preparations are under way to supply a gas and electric power station in Talkha with natural gas instead of using solar oil which has particular specifications [for processing] and can be utilized by electric power stations only at great expense. In addition to this, the spinning and weaving, dye processing, and apply companies in al-Mahalla al-Kubra are supplied with natural gas instead of mazut. At the present time the daily gain in income from this field is worth about half a million dollars, and will increase to about $1 million in the next few years. This is as a result of saving quantities of naptha and mazut, and saving sums [of money] that were used to import special solar oil.

--The Abu al-Gharadiq gas fields. The fields' reserves total 20 billion cubic meters, which is sufficient for consumption for a period of 20 years, based on a rate of extracting 3 million cubic meters a day. Exploitation of the gas from this field began with feeding its gas to the cement-producing plants in the Hulwan and Turah area, and to the iron and steel plants in Hulwan, in order to replace mazut. Consequently, it was possible to economize in the consumption of mazut, to the extent of about a half million dollars a day.

--The Abu Qir al-Bahri field. Its reserves total 27 billion cubic meters, which is sufficient for local consumption for a period of 30 years, based on a rate of extracting 3 million cubic meters a day. Its exploitation began in 1979 with the supplying of natural gas to the fertilizer plants in Abu Qir and the electric power plants. The gain in income from this field is about $400,000 a day--the value of the quantities of naphtha and mazut which it is possible to save from being consumed in these areas.

5 Out of Every 1,000 Workers Abroad Participated in the Insurance Plan

A study which was conducted by the General Association of Egyptian Labor Unions has revealed that the annual insurance payments collected from Egyptian workers abroad did not exceed 1.250 million [Egyptian] pounds worth of hard currency, whereas this revenue was supposed to total 287 million. This means that the insurance plan achieved only one half of 1 percent of what it had set as a goal.

The study pointed out that the total number of those insured, during the last 5 years, has not been more than 5,284 individuals from among the 1 million workers who are subject to the insurance law covering workers abroad. [It also pointed out] that the largest number of those insured are working in Saudi Arabia, where they total 1,991, and that the smallest number [of those insured] is in Morocco, where they comprise a total of only 5 individuals.

The study criticized the method of collecting the insurance payments from Egyptian workers abroad, [which is done] by means of having the appeal to participate in this [insurance] plan be carried out by a body of high-ranking employees in the social security sector, without any coordination with the General Association of Egyptian Labor Unions--the organization that knows how to talk to the groups of workers who are abroad. The study demanded that the insurance plan be made obligatory, and that the necessary means of enforcement be brought into being to prevent evading participation in the insurance plan, and [the latter would be achieved] by means of tying it together with travel permits, letters of recommendation, and renewal of passports.

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CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLITERACY DESCRIBED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24, 25 Dec 79

/Article by Rajab al-Banna and Ahmad al-'Attar: "Illiteracy--Egypt's Number One Struggle!"/

/24 Dec 79, p 3/

/Text/ Egypt is now entering its most serious national struggle.

It is a ferocious struggle to eliminate a grave plague which still exists within Egyptian society; its name is illiteracy!

Illiteracy has now become the number one enemy of the Egyptian people. It is truly the issue which separates a backward society from an advanced one.

For this reason, all popular and progressive leaders, led by President al-Sadat himself, are moving to eliminate this great danger.

Beginning on the first of January, Anti-Illiteracy Year will start. On that day, President al-Sadat will stand up to give the signal to begin and will come forward to give the first lesson himself. After that, thousands of classes will be inaugurated and thousands of volunters will stand up before tens of thousands of illiterate people, so that zero hour may begin.

Preparation for this day took 4 whole months of work in silence, far from the clamor of publicity. All these months were allotted to studies, discussions, contacts and meetings. The plan has now been completed in all aspects and is awaiting the hour of decision so that it may become a model of the cultural struggle for which excellent planning has been made and prepared.

The beginning occurred 4 months ago at the National Democratic Party headquarters on al-Shaykh Rihan Square--specifically in the office of Mahir Muhammad 'Ali, secretary of tradesmen and popular development, at a

meeting attended by the former minister of education, Dr Hasan Isma'il, undersecretaries, and governorate officials.

Before this meeting there were facts which had stirred up people's anxiety.

There are facts which show that more than half the population of Egypt neither reads nor writes, that is, has not yet put its feet on the first step along the road which differentiates an advanced people from a backward one. Their exact proportion, by the last count, is 56.5 percent, 16 million to be exact, 70 percent of whom are females.

There are facts which show anti-illiteracy efforts being made by the Ministry of Education will not achieve their objective in 1,000 years. Facts show that the executive bill on a law which was issued 9 whole years ago to eliminate illiteracy has not yet been passed--that is, that it is not more than half a law--and more than that, that the law has not been implemented!

There are facts which show that the constitution, for the first time in the history of Egypt, devoted an article to the eradication of illiteracy, in which it said: "The eradication of illiteracy is a national obligation for whose attainment all the forces of the people will be mobilized." The constitution is the law of laws; its word is above all others, and the constitution must be put in practice.

Where Are the Real Causes?

We have become so used to hearing and reading about the eradication of illiteracy that we imagine that all there is to say about it has actually been said. However, this is not true, as one education official says. No one has stated the most important fact on the subject, which is that in all the years past the Ministry of Education has not truly been concerned with eliminating illiteracy. It is true that there is a General Anti-illiteracy Department in the ministry which has anti-illiteracy experts, inspectors, guidance personnel, supervisors and officials, but that is just a facade; the fact is that this department has no spirit, because, to be blunt, none of the previous ministers of education were interested in eradicating illiteracy. Some of them said, most explicitly, "What business is it of mine to eliminate illiteracy? The problems of primary, preparatory and secondary school are enough for me. When I am free of cares then you can talk to me about a concern for eliminating illiteracy."

No one has stated the fact that a large number of people engaged in eradicating illiteracy were chosen for this job not because of their fitness for it but for other reasons totally remote from this goal.

No one has said that the teachers who work in anti-illiteracy classes are not working, for many reasons, most important being that they receive a

monthly stipend of just 4 pounds and for these 4 pounds they are asked to work 3 hours a day--no less than 60 hours a month. If they are absent one day, that is deducted from their salary, and the Tax /Department/ also takes deductions. Can one imagine a teacher who would work 60 hours for 3 pounds, after taxes, or 15 piasters a day?

No one has stated the fact that teachers do not attend regularly and consequently that illiterates lose the sense of urgency and do not attend regularly either. More than that, the guidance personnel and inspectors--who are supposed to unearth the facts, and, thank God, are many in number--do not inspect because inspection requires moving around, and moving around requires transportation; in the villages, an inspector cannot go to a village in a taxi with 20 passengers, and, if he does, how is he going to come back? The classes are supposed to be in the evening, and moving around at night is not feasible, especially in winter. Nonetheless, tens of thousands of inspector's trip reports to classes, even in remote villages and desert areas have been written!

Classes on Paper

No one has said that anti-illiteracy classes are not suitable for eradicating illiteracy. Most of them are in primary schools whose chairs were designed to seat children from 6 to 12 years of age--can you imagine a man of 30 or 40 agreeing to come to such a school and sit down on such a chair?

Some schools in the villages have no lighting; the purchase of lanterns is difficult, as is that of kerosene or wicks for lanterns; these require financial procedures.

There are facts which hold that there are governors who do not believe in the importance of eliminating illiteracy; this by itself is enough to kill any effort, because the governor's interest, as Amimah al-Nahri, deputy chief of the General Adult Education Department at the Ministry of Education, says, "is the motive force behind the job. As an example of this, the current governor of al-Buhayrah, Husayn Kamil Dabbus, is interested in eradicating illiteracy; classes have therefore started functioning seriously, the work is well organized in them, and we in the ministry have started to feel this. The former Governor of Alexandria, however, considers that eliminating illiteracy is a waste of time and money and therefore there was enough to inaugurate 600 anti-illiteracy classes in his budget; only 100 were inaugurated, while the balance of the anti-illiteracy budget was attached to the governorate budget."

The facts show that not everyone who acquires an anti-illiteracy diploma really knows how to read and write. A diploma is one thing and reality is something else. On this subject, one minister of education, Dr Mustafa Hilmi, a scholar whose honesty and sincerity have been attested to, says "Adult education departments give thousands of anti-illiteracy diplomas. I have started hearing doubts raised about the seriousness of these diplomas, and this is a grave matter."

The facts, as Mrs Su'ad Shukri, assistant head of the General Department of Adult Education, says, show that "The sums allocated in the budgets do not reflect a real interest in eliminating illiteracy, and therefore the plan is not being carried out. In Port Said, they were supposed to set up 190 classes but they have started only six. In Alexandria they were supposed to have set up 550 classes and they have inaugurated only 320. Even in Cairo, 700 classes were to have been started but only 482 have been."

Why Does an Illiterate Person Learn?

The facts state, as Mrs Su'ad Shukri says, that "Illiterate persons themselves are not willing to learn, because there is no incentive. If there were fines, for example, or delayed raises or promotions, or people's benefits depended on the eradication of illiteracy, they would come to us, and the same would hold if there were positive incentives--bonuses or raises; these would prompt illiterate persons to learn.

"An example of that is that a knitwear factory was built in Tamalay, the center of Minuf, last July, and a condition for being assigned to it was proficiency in reading and writing. The girls in the village were so inspired to go to anti-illiteracy classes that we had to start three classes in this village."

The anti-illiteracy official Mrs Amimah al-Nahri acknowledges that current anti-illiteracy curricula need to be reviewed because they are based on bringing illiterates up to the fourth grade level in primary school, which is not adequate; also, people can subsequently revert to illiteracy.

The facts show that the Ministry of Education spent 3 million pounds in the course of 15 years (from 1945 to 1960); during this long period, only 940,000 students received instruction. This means that it will take 20 years if the 16 million illiterates are not to increase in number, while figures show that mainsprings of illiteracy produce tens of thousands of new illiterates every year.

Nonetheless, the director general of adult education in the Ministry of Education appeals for us to be optimistic, saying "The ministry has prepared a 10-year anti-illiteracy plan for half a million illiterates in Egypt, at a rate of 1 million illiterates per year (one should recognize that there are new illiterates every year). In this plan, the ministry will take charge of eliminating illiteracy among 3.5 million illiterates in its classes during the 10-year period, and the other ministries, companies, trade unions, and societies will be in charge of teaching the rest."

Is Half a Million Enough?

In the People's Assembly, other facts are being disclosed concerning the inadequacy of the efforts made so far to eliminate illiteracy. The Anti-Illiteracy Law was passed in 1970. Its first article says that the

elimination of illiteracy is a national responsibility; so far, 9 years have passed since the law was issued!

The second article of the law requires illiterate persons in Egypt between the ages of eight and 45 to be educated, but that has not been implemented either.

The third article of the law stipulates that a higher council to stamp out illiteracy is to be established to set forth plans and specify necessary human, material, technical and financial resources and encouragement incentives, that work between the ministries and different entities is to be coordinated, that rules are to be set forth for selecting teachers, be they school teachers or volunteers, and that curricula are to be laid out. This council was established only 2 years after the law was issued and met only once, in February 1972, under the chairmanship of the minister of education, with a membership consisting of the undersecretaries of ministries, and representatives of all government agencies. At this lone meeting, it was requested that each company and government body plan to eradicate illiteracy among its employees within 5 years, ending February 1976 /sic/. The decree was not subsequently carried out, the council did not meet, and no one thought of reviving the law before it died!

Article 15 of the law states that an illiterate worker may not be promoted after 5 years have elapsed since the law was issued if he does not obtain an illiteracy diploma and that he may not be given an annual raise. This provision was to have been implemented in 1975 but that has not come to pass.

Democracy and Production

Two committees have met in the People's Assembly on the subject of illiteracy, under the chairmanship of Dr Sufi Abut Talib. They stated that illiteracy is the most dangerous problem obstructing social and economic progress, that the number of illiterates is increasing instead of declining, and that the wisdom in having workers and peasants occupy in half the seats of the elected People's Assemblies will be realized only through the eradication of illiteracy. This means that eliminating illiteracy is a necessary prelude to the exercise of democracy. They also stated that the output of workers or peasants increases 30 percent after illiteracy has been combatted.

The People's Assembly said that the anti-illiteracy question will brook no delay and requires revolutionary solutions. If circumstances cannot tolerate the addition of new burdens to budgets, then it is necessary to rely on people's efforts and the volunteer work of educated people

"The importance of eradicating illiteracy for the job is something which cannot be denied," Dr 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, the former minister of education and currently head of the Scientific Research Academy, says, "One of the main motives for my visit to China was to study how people

eliminated illiteracy there. I found that their figures confirm that the output of illiterates increases five times over after their illiteracy has been stamped out."

As Muhammad al-Shadhili of the National Education Council says, "The problem is that there is no one to take charge of eliminating illiteracy in Egypt, even though there is a law on it. The solution is either for the Higher Anti-Illiteracy Council to be revived so that it may be responsible or for some entity to bear this responsibility."

However, the problem, considers Mahir Muhammad 'Ali, the secretary of tradesmen and popular development, is that "we require revolutionary solutions. For example, the National Education Council prepared a 3-year program to eradicate illiteracy costing 50 million pounds, which is difficult to carry out. The Anti-Illiteracy Law has not been implemented, the Higher Council has not been formed, companies and departments have not performed their commitments as the law stipulates, the executive bill has not been issued and therefore we will draw up a committee to modify this law so that it will have value and effectiveness."

Mahir Muhammad 'Ali says, "The vice president, Mr Husni Mubarak, said that if we can really eliminate illiteracy, this generation may content itself with pride in the fact that it has achieved this goal."

[25 Dec 79, p 3]

/Text/ The picture from inside the operations room of Egypt's major campaign against the plague of illiteracy:

Inside the operations room, all facts and figures are in movement.

The facts here confirm that more than half the population of Egypt is illiterate and that efforts to stamp out illiteracy in the past 50 years have achieved nothing of value: teachers are not teaching, the curricula are unsuitable, the budgets are inadequate, the law passed 9 years ago to eliminate illiteracy has not been carried out, and anti-illiteracy diplomas are no proof that illiteracy has been eliminated!

The most dangerous facts by far are that the number of illiterates in Egypt is rising, not dropping, and that this number will proceed to increase irreversibly unless we find a solution for stemming the sources of illiteracy and placing barriers before the tributaries which are feeding the great river of illiteracy!

On the road to eliminating illiteracy, we estimate that we have half a million new arrivals every year!

The question is: How can the number of illiterates increase while schools are spread about everywhere, children are compelled to enter the educational cyle by force of law, and an army of teachers is spread about in every village, town and hamlet?

What is the solution for stopping this dangerous national hemmorrhage? That is the challenge!

The problem, as has become clear from studies, is two-pronged: The first is the large number of children of compulsory education age who leave primary school before completing their studies, falling into the great river of illiteracy. They, as Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the minister of education, says, number no less than 12 percent of the children in Egypt!

The second prong is the greater number of children who leave primary school with a certificate in their hands, stating that they have completed 6 years of education, though in fact they have not gone beyond the danger zone and are proportionately no less than 25 percent of the children of Egypt!

This, as the minister of education says, means that one out of every three children in Egypt is condemned to be illiterate!

What is the truth, specifically?

Our Loss Is Greater

The director general of primary education says: "One hundred percent absorption of children in schools is a figure which has not been attained anywhere in the world. It is well known that any country in the world which attains an absorption rate of 94 percent considers that it has reached the level of full absorption.

"Elementary education here has reached the highest absorption rate this year, but this does not exceed 83 percent of the children subject to compulsory education. Of the remainder, 17 percent, 5 percent must go out; these are handicapped children, mentally retarded children, the dumb and the blind, who require special care and greater costs. Twelve percent of the children of Egypt who have reached the age of compulsory education remain; these are able to be educated but do not enter school."

Why Do They Not Enter School?

The director general of primary education says, "For more than one reason. The first is that there are no places for them. We have reached the maximum capacity our primary schools can absorb this year--and in fact they are above capacity. The schools cannot absorb one more pupil! It is a problem of buildings and places, a problem of a shortage of teachers, a problem of budget shortages, a problem of parents' faulty awareness, and so forth. The ministry's plan is for absorption to reach 96 percent in 2000."

The National Educational Council has dwelt a long time on this grave phenomenon. As Dr 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim, the supervisor of national councils, says, "The council reached the conclusion that a person following the

development of primary level education in the past 10 years would note that the number of students enrolled is roughly stable and that the increase does not exceed a few thousand from one year to the next, while estimates presuppose a constant increase every year, so that everyone of primary stage age can be absorbed. The human loss in recent years has come to about 236,000 children per year--a high and serious rate. This group of children represents one of the basic sources of the illiteracy problem. It is sufficient for us to realize that their number has reached 1.18 million in just 5 years, and this problem will remain in the coming years if primary education cannot attain full absorption."

Since the problem is serious, the People's Assembly has investigated it and issued recommendations which the Ministry of Education has begun to carry out. The most important of these recommendations are: expanding the construction of one-classroom schools; granting priority in the construction of these schools to villages far from transportation; returning to the system of religious schools in mosques or schools; expanding the construction of children's cultural centers; using the sites of agricultural societies, mosques, youth centers, people's open spaces and benevolent societies; and using graduates who are in the general service stage for assignment to primary stage instruction.

The School Goes to the Pupil

"The most important step toward a solution," says Mr Muhammad Qarnah, director general of primary education, "is for the school to go to the pupil and not to wait for him, because one of the reasons people stay away from school is that there are children living in faraway hamlets which are remote from schools and for whom transportation is not an easy matter.

"For these people, the ministry has built schools which consist of one classroom each, comprising children 6 to 14 years old and comprising every educational level. They have one teacher who subdivides them into levels, teaching each level in accordance with its ability. After that they must be content with this amount of education; it is enough for them to have emerged from the prison of illiteracy."

Mr Muhammad Qarnah says, "These schools now have 64,000 pupils, some of whom are above the age stipulated for the primary stage, and some of whom are at the compulsory education age."

Fugitives from Education!

The great river of illiteracy is fed by another more serious stream, as Dr Muhammad Kamil al-Nahhas, former undersecretary of education and member of the Anti-Illiteracy Branch of the National Education Council, says. This stream is called "truancy," and in fact is an economic educational waste which causes pupils to revert to illiteracy. Its rate is very high in primary education, reaching about 20 to 30 percent.

He says, "This phenomenon has many causes. Among them are causes attributable to social traditions in specific areas, economic causes, and causes attributable to a decline in the level of education itself or a failure to link education to the environment. Statistics show that 3 percent of the pupils in the first, second and third grades leave school. The rate then rises to 22 percent in the fourth grade. In the sixth grade, the truancy rate reaches 40 percent, which is a danger point!"

What does the National Education Council say about this phenomenon in the cause of the study it has devoted to it?

The council says that there has been a noticeable increase in truancy rates in most governorates of the republic, although this rate ought gradually to have declined. Truancy rates increase when pupils move up to higher grades, and the truancy rate is higher among girls, being more than double that for boys. The phenomenon of truancy is increasing faster in the countryside than in towns. The council has discovered that fifth grade truancy rates throughout the governorates are on the rise except in the case of three governorates--Cairo, Alexandria, and Qina. This is a matter which deserves special study.

How Much We Are Losing through Their Truancy!

Dr Kamil al-Nahhas says that the numbers of truants--now between 8 and 12--who leave primary school before completing the primary stage and join the ranks of the illiterate come to 100,000 a year. This means that there are 1 million illiterates every 10 years. If we take account of the number of new illiterates, we will find 1.18 million children who have not enrolled in primary schooling and half a million who have left school, for a total of 1.68 million children.

The remedy, if we are to prevent this national loss, as the National Assembly concluded after lengthy discussions of the truancy problem, lies in five specific points:

A campaign to spread awareness among the inhabitants of rural areas to convince them through mosques, proselytizers, radio and television not to encourage their children to break off their schooling.

Attention to crop seasons in determining vacations; if we take this into account, we will give peasants the opportunity to make use of their children in farming and let them attend school at the same time, without conflict.

Review of the weekly school day off. Why should we insist that that always be Friday? Why don't we set the market day a weekly day off for each village, to be in step with the trends?

In the law, there are financial penalties for guardians whose children stay away from their studies. The Ministry of Education has suspended implementation of these penalties, but it must return to the penalty system.

Experience has proved that offering primary school students meals represents an important incentive for regular attendance. Therefore, the meal represents a guarantee of regular instruction, to say nothing of the fact that it is necessary to protect children from diseases of malnutrition and stunted growth.

Repeat Students Become Illiterate!

The third tributary which feeds the great river of illiteracy is students who repeat their primary examinations. Their number, as Dr 'Abd-al-Dayim al-Ansari, former education undersecretary and anti-illiteracy expert, says, totals 204,000 children per year. They revert to illiteracy because they in reality do not learn in primary school.

The only solution to this problem, in the opinion of Dr 'Abd-al-Dayim al-Ansari, is for the primary stage pupil not to be promoted from one class to another until passing an oral and written examination, for the pupil's guardian to be regularly informed of the results of his child's examinations every month, at midyear, and at the end of the year, and to go back to the "makeup" system for repeat students, which they will take before the start of the new year. If we do not want to give pupils a chance to stay in school more than 6 years, because of budget considerations, building /space/ or the like, we can graduate them after they have gone through 6 years and reached a given grade, for example the fourth grade, on condition that they have acquired a real education. This is the conclusion the People's Assembly reached after discussing the problem from all its aspects.

These Are the Three Sources of Illiteracy

A new layer is deposited every year upon the mound of illiteracy, which consists of millions of people. How then are we to attain a solution to this difficult equation--to do away with the illiteracy of those who are now illiterate, while guaranteeing that new illiterates will not come upon us from every door or window?

This is the question, as Dr 'Abd-al-Dayim says, and we are faced with a fact which President al-Sadat stated and which we must properly understand: "Building Egypt into a civilized scientific state which possesses illiteracy is a stroke of fantasy." In its first lines, the university document notes "It is impossible to build democratic socialism on ignorance and illiteracy."

A Solution Exists And Is Feasible!

To the minister of education, Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, there is a solution to the difficult equation:

"The equation is difficult, but its solution is feasible," the minister believes. "The solution first of all is for not to relinquish the responsibility of eliminating illiteracy and throwing it on the Ministry of Education alone. The phenomenon of truancy is serious, true. The failure to reach a capacity where one can absorb every child is a serious matter. This is true. Therefore the ministry's role must be confined to blocking off illiteracy at its sources, and this is enough. The ministry has plans for absorbing all children who reach the age of compulsory education. Recommendations are being carried out on the phenomenon of truancy which were adopted by the People's Assembly. We will turn primary schooling into a new system--'basic education'--which will be for a 9-year period, comprising the primary and preparatory stages.

"One-classroom schools, of which we have established 3,000, now comprise 4,000 students; these are the solution for rescuing truants who have basically not signed up for an education. In these schools, the teaching is non-traditional. We will start them up anywhere, in mosques, in village chiefs' buildings, and we will start them up at any time--in the morning, in the afernoon. What is important is that they be consonant with the pupils' conditions.

"This is the ministry's responsibility.

"This is all included in the ministry's plans and projects. Of course there is no harm in having the ministry place its resources at the service of the eradication of illiteracy, but the responsibility belongs to trade unions, companies, societies and parties. They have held the ministry accountable for its responsibility, which basically consists of education from the primary to the secondary stage. I know that the number of illiterates in government departments and public sector companies is great, but to eradicate illiteracy among these people is the responsibility of the departments and companies. We give our technical and educational expertise to anyone who asks for it. We are faced with the responsibility of eradicating illiteracy among women but that is the responsibility of women's organizations and societies."

Mahir Muhammad 'Ali, secretary of tradesmen in the National Party, picks up the thread by stating, "The responsibility for stamping out illiteracy actually belongs to people's organizations and the National Party has therefore formed a committee which includes all the agencies.

"Our task is to coordinate all bodies and put forth a single plan and for everyone to move to implement it. The role of the Education Ministry is to seal off the openings of illiteracy, which represents a danger threatening the future and squandering the efforts of the present."

11887
CSO: 4802

NATION'S IMMIGRANTS CONTRIBUTE TO CANADIAN LIFE, CLUTURE

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Dec 79 p 8

[Article by Mustafa al-Damarani: "The Egyptians in Canada Are the Best-Mannered of Immigrants"]

[Text] According to the latest report of the Canadian Federal Emigration Ministry, there are approximately 40,000 Egyptian emigrants, including 25,000 in Montreal, 11,000 in Toronto and the remainder distributed throughout the remaining regions.

Another report states that Egypt occupies first place among the states which are a source of emigration, in regard to the level of the emigrants themselves, in the areas of education, culture, profession and mastery of their specializations. They are the preferred emigrant elements from the viewpoint of personal conduct, preservation of identity and mutual respect.

Although the Canadian government had opened the door to emigration a hundred years ago, as they say here, these days it has intensified the acceptance of new emigrants. The Ministry of Emigration itself has put down special conditions and specifications and requested that they be made available to each citizen from any country desiring to emigrate, provided that the emigrant is aware of these conditions before entering Canada. The following conditions are those which the Canadian government considers the controlling regulations regarding emigration:

--Non-categorical acceptance of new emigrants except in defined specializations and fields which the country needs. Most of them are related to the professions and wage earners [i.e., blue collar] since presently the cost of manual labor there is rising in a conspicuous manner.

--Emigration is limited to youths only whose ages do not exceed thirty.

--The Canadian authorities have uncovered fallacious contracts among some of the foreign emigrants which is incompatible with the new emigration regulations. As a result, Canada has refused to accept the holders of

these contracts and has asked them to return to their country. Also appearing in the text of the fallacious contracts from their relatives and friends [are statements that] the emigrants have wealth which they wish to invest there. Canada rejects this.

--One of the reports states that Canada wishes to maintain the level of livelihood of its inhabitants and that, in opening the door of emigration to large numbers of emigrants not wanted and not needed [by] their country, Canada will bear the burden of the costs of their livelihood.

Mahir Sami, the press counsellor at our embassy here, told me: Generally, the emigrants are faced with several problems in Canada, those related to Canada as the place of emigration and those related to Egypt, the mother country. As for the problem related to Canada, its realistic ways of coping with the new life there which differs greatly from life in Egypt--its traditions, customs and private conduct. One of the more outstanding problems facing the new generations of Egyptians born in Canada is that they do not know Arabic and their parents have not found a way to assist them in teaching Arabic to their children. They do not want to be isolated from that which is between the [new] generations and their original affiliation with the Arab homeland. Then there are several problems related to Egypt. I should like to note here that all the committees set up in Egypt on the various levels for the welfare of the expatriates and emigrants have not succeeded in achieving the hope that was sought through their creation. It leans continually to this special attention in a secondary or contributary manner. It is a big job requiring tremendous full-time efforts by a special competent ministry.

In Canada, the notion has arisen of establishing an Egyptian house to which all Egyptians may belong. The Egyptian Information Office has launched an appeal for such a house in Montreal, which would be the nucleus for a united complex which would embrace all Egyptians in Canada. This house has actually been registered and publicly advertised in the Province of Quebec and the Canadian federal government, and a founding committee has been drawn up for it. The office is now performing the procedures of taking a census of all Egyptians in all the provinces of Canada, and it aims at the following:

Creating a strong Egyptian identity in the immigrants new country which will have a weight and presence in coping with other ethnic groups and hostile currents.

Consolidating the bridges linking Egyptian emigrants with the homeland by organizing trips, holding Egyptian weeks, and showing publicity materials on Egypt.

Offering various forms of social and material care to Egyptian immigrants and their families, providing them with job opportunities, and lessening all difficulties standing in their way in the various stages of their emigration.

The success stories Egyptian emigres have registered are many. Foremost among them is Mr Muhammad al-Qaysuni, who has become the manager of a major hotel here, the Holiday Inn. This is the biggest hotel company in the world and al-Qaysuni is considered the link between Egyptian immigrants, the new Egyptian office in Ottowa, and immigrants in Toronto--indeed, al-Qaysuni spares no efforts in his contacts with the Egyptians here, in contributing to solving and reducing their problems and offering help to every Egyptian.

Then Eng 'Atif Sa'id Rushd, who is considered one of the top electrical minds in Canada now; Canada sends him to represent it at international scientific conferences abroad. He has two doctoral degrees and worked as an ordinary engineer in the Electric Organization in Egypt. Then there is Milad Bassadah, whose name is still fresh in people's minds as a graduate of the first platoon of producers on which Egyptian television was founded. Indeed, he owns his own television station, which is as big in area as Egyptian Television. Likewise there are 'Ala' Malbuni, a major businessman, and a large number of Egyptians who have reached deputy minister positions in the Canadian government, including Husayn Salih, Dr Muhammad Sharif and Eng Husayn 'Abd-al-Jawad.

11887
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STATUS OF EMIGRE WORKERS IN GREECE EXPLORED

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 2

/Article by 'Izzat Sami: "Problems of Egyptian Workers in Greece Are Examined by Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad and Officials in Athens"/

/Text/ The day after tomorrow, Wednesday, Mr Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of manpower and vocational training and chairman of the General Federation of Workers' Unions, is to return to Cairo from Athens after a visit to Greece which has taken a week. Accompanying him on the trip has been Mr Muhammad Ramadan Abu Tur, chairman of the General Marine Transport Union. The purpose of the trip was to conduct talks with government officials and trade union men there regarding the Egyptian workforce in Greece, which exceeds 32,000, mostly maritime workers.

Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, dealt with the problems of Egyptian labor in Greece in a discussion with Greek officials during his visit to Greece last October.

During Dr Butrus Ghali's talks in Athens, his excellency pointed out that Greece's consulates obstruct the workers' acquisition of the entry visas required for performing their jobs. In addition, Egyptians obtain entry visas to Greece who are being turned away at Greek airports and seaports.

The Greek foreign minister replied that the procedures Greece follows are aimed at attempting to limit "illegal labor"; above and beyond that, Greek security authorities have discovered numerous forged visas. The Greek minister expressed the Greek Foreign Ministry's permanent readiness to help if any obstacles arise regarding the entry of Egyptian individuals on the part of Greek security authorities.

Dr Butrus Ghali also stated that Egyptian labor in Greece suffers from some problems related to social insurance for Egyptian laborers working on Greek ships or the withholding of work and residence permits from Egyptians working in Greece. He stated that it would be best if their circumstances were regularized, either by agreement through contract between the two countries or in a manner which Greece would consider would guarantee that such obstacles would disappear.

Mr Rallis, the Greek foreign minister, stated that he has been provided with instructions from the Greek premier to try to solve all problems obstructing bilateral relations between the two countries, in order to ensure that they will be supported. Proceeding from that, he was ready to discuss on an individual basis the conditions of Egyptian workers whose conditions in Greece the Egyptian government wished to regularize.

Regarding the signing of an agreement with Egypt on Egyptian labor in Greece, the /line missing/ Common Market (in 1981), since any agreement Egypt reaches with the market will consequently apply to the conditions of Egyptians in Greece.

Before he traveled to Greece Mr Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, the minister of manpower and vocational training, received a report from the Egyptian Embassy in Athens in which Mr Sulayman Hindawi, the Egyptian labor counsellor there, stated that Greece wanted to regularize the work relations of Egyptian laborers in Greece in the broader context of the European Common Market, of which Greece is expected to become a full member at the beginning of 1981.

The labor counsellor said that the Greek authorities at the same time expressed their readiness to solve the problems facing Egyptian laborers in Greece under their current conditions, through cooperation between the Greek Foreign Ministry and the Egyptian Embassy.

The report which Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad received from the Egyptian Embassy in Athens before his trip to Greece included a number of "views" which the Egyptian ambassador there, Mr Sa'd 'Afrah, had expressed, these are as follows:

The fact that Greece has consistently been open labor market for Egyptian workers for many long years underlines Greek employers' direct interest in using Egyptian labor; it also expresses the Greek government's interest, because it has continued to permit Greek employers to use this labor.

At the same time, the Egyptian workers' headlong rush to work in the Greek market underlines the fact that the return on their labor must be considered extremely fruitful in spite of the illegal conditions which prevail. The minimum wage for an Egyptian worker in industry in Greece comes to the equivalent of 250 pounds a month.

The phenomenon of reciprocity in the Greek labor market will continue in the future, as long as the interests of the "supply" and "demand" for workers remain as they are. This is above and beyond the fact that signed agreements for the interchange of manpower might as well not exist and that the agreements may become meaningless if Greek employers cease employing Egyptian labor, for reasons related to the labor market or suggestions by the Greek government.

Egyptian maritime workers, who make up more than half the Egyptian workforce in Greece, are governed by international laws on maritime workers and collective agreements of Greek maritime workers. Thus they do not face problems as concerns the regularization of their conditions or the transfer of their savings.

It appears from their activity that the ambassadors of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are trying to get their subjects employed on Greek freighters. The federation of maritime workers in these countries, as well as South Korea, the Phillippines and Bangladesh, previously signed labor agreements with Greek shipowners' federations which stipulate that sailors from these countries will receive extremely low wages compared with those of Greek and Egyptian seamen. Although the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry has refused to approve these agreements, Greek shipowners continue to employ sailors from these countries; this constitutes an element competing with Egyptian labor in Greek ships. For our part, this requires that Egyptian seamen's competence and level of skill be increased to the levels stipulated in international agreements through implementation of the necessary training programs.

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CSO: 4802

SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE OF NATIONALS LIVING IN GERMANY EXTOLLED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Dec 79 p 6

/Article by Hasan al-Sharqawi: The Problems of Egyptian Youths in Germany Are Few And Their Output Is Great!"/

/Text/ Young Egyptians in West Germany are a bright picture for Egypt, through their efforts in universities and work environments. They are a true resource awaiting the moment when they can offer their labor, expertise and money to their country, once they regain their confidence. They also have problems which are awaiting a solution in Cairo. The characteristic by which Egyptians in particular here are distinguished is that they do rare, distinguished work, even in their studies.

As an example of problems awaiting a solution, government scholarship student Muhammad Diya'-al-Din Farraj, who is studying the history of Arab science at a specialized institute in the University of Frankfurt and is preparing for a doctorate in mathematics and astronomy in an attempt to derive modern theories and follow them to their Arab origins in order to confirm that it was the Arabs who first started these theories, nonetheless complains that while he is 28 years old and is in the middle of the road, he has neither performed military service nor is able to complete his doctoral thesis before returning--even though he has completed his university studies in Germany and has cost the government nothing. He is awaiting a response to a letter which he sent to officials in order to delay being drafted until his thesis is finished.

'Ali Hasan Hasanayn has a different problem. He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture, a diploma of higher studies from the Faculty of Agriculture in Cairo and a master's degree from 'Ayn Shams University. He works at the National Research Center in the branch of biological and agricultural research. He has performed research on introducing new characteristics into Sea Island cotton, adding firmness, length and softness to it to improve Egyptian cotton strains. His research also includes cheap protein production from peanuts and sunflowers.

Because he was not able to complete his studies, he applied to the National Research Center in order to have a chance to study in Germany. The center

agreed to give him a leave without pay to study at the Tropical Plants Institute at Geschen University; this was then changed to a study leave with pay but without transfer of currency abroad. This was then changed to a study leave with currency transfer abroad as of June 1979.

Because he was not able to obtain financial aid from any direction, and because the Educational Scholarship Office offered him no financial assistance, he turned to the National Research Center for aid in completing his research on the technology of barley production and processing in dry and desert areas, after attaining encouraging results on 26 worldwide types of barley which could contribute to supporting self-sufficiency in food in Egypt.

In Heidelberg, I met with a group of young Egyptians. Dr al-Sa'di Muhammad Badawi obtained a doctorate from Geschen University in pharmacological and aromatic plant production a few days ago, and will return in a few weeks to receive a job at the University of al-Zaqaziq. With him is his wife, who came to obtain a master's degree on orchids. All he wants is to benefit from his studies on the (al-zurbayh) plant which grows in Egypt and to succeed in extracting an effective material from it for killing and repelling such tropical worms present in the intestines of the Egyptian peasant as scharus and ankylostoma as a result of eating improperly washed vegetables. These worms represent a threat to health because they absorb human food after it has become readied for digestion and therefore are a cause of symptoms of sloth and lethargy.

Dr al-Sa'di says that his study is consistent with modern trends and, with the mercy of the almighty creator, on whom be blessings, treatment through the plant has not had deleterious effects, as is the case with treatment by drugs. In past years, the world was preoccupied with creating all treatment materials chemically, but the peripheral damage from these drugs has prompted renewed attention to pharmacological plants. The world has once again been turning the pages of its ancient forefathers, such as al-Razi, 'Ali ibn 'Abbas, ibn Sina and ibn al-Bitar, who were the first to use plants for treatment.

Fortunately, the problems of the young Egyptians in Germany are less serious and important than those of young Germans because they are traditional reiterated ones which Egyptian youths have expressed at every conference held for the sake of people on government scholarship:

The need to find a solution to the draft problem of those on scholarship in its various forms.

The effort to create a settlement agency which will be able to keep people on scholarship in contact with their country and look into their problems abroad on the spot.

The need to work to create a new view on the material conditions of accompanying wives and to review means for aiding people who are studying abroad However, in every case an important point remains which calls for optimism: that is that Egyptian youths are still fully linked to their home country and are looking for a solution to their problems, which are not great.

11887
CSO: 4802

NATION'S HOUSING NEEDS UNTIL 2000 REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Dec 79 p 3

/Article by Salah Jalal: "Egypt Will Need 8.5 Million Dwellings Costing 3.5 Billion Pounds by 2000, at Its Current Rate of Population Increase!"/

/Text/ In confronting the current rate of population increase, Egypt is now importing 3 million tons of wheat per year in order to meet the deficit in local output and to produce loaves. Egypt is now losing 60,000 feddans of the most fertile agricultural land a year as buildings and installations encroach upon it.

To face the population expansion at its current percentage and high rate, it is necessary to lessen the congestion and confusion on the land of the Nile Valley and the Delta. In the next 20 years, it will be necessary to house 2 million families, with an average of five people per family, on new land besides that on which the inhabitants are living now. The result of all this will be that the current rate of congestion and the peasant's share of farmland, which comes to 0.29 feddans, will just be maintained, without dropping!

If the average children per Egyptian family come to three by 2000, 4.3 million people will have to be housed outside Nile Valley and Delta land instead of 10 million, as would be the case if the current rate of population increase continues.

If the average children per Egyptian family during the same period come to two, only 550,000 people will have to be housed outside the Nile Valley and the Delta.

Egypt's Inhabitants Move toward Towns and the Capital

A International Rapid Authority report stresses the phenomenon of the influx from the countryside to the towns, which is taking place at great speed in Egypt. In 1960, 37 percent of the population of Egypt lived in towns; this figure rose to 44 percent in 1976 and will reach 50 percent in 2000.

Cairo has a special, distrinctive, odd status. In 1966, 14 percent of the entire population of Egypt lived there and in 1976 its population had come to account for 22 percent of the total. It represents 50 percent of the entire urban population of Egypt, including Alexandria's.

While the natural rate of increase of Cairo's population is 2.5 percent, there is an additional increase of 0.6 percent which results from migration from the other areas of Egypt, so Cairo's annual population increase totals 3.1 percent. Most of this increase is concentrated in peripheral surrounding areas, in hovels and houses which are for the most part unsuitable.

This is in spite of the fact that the rate of population increase dropped from 4.1 percent in 1960-66 to 1.8 percent in 1966-76, since a large percentage of Cairo's buildings were transformed into administrative and government buildings, factories and services and new dwellings were built around them, not among them or toward the center from them.

The strange picture of Cairo lies in the fact that even if migration to Cairo stops--which will not happen--its population will double in 26 years, then redouble in another 21 years. At the current rate of population increase, Cairo's population in 2010 will be 20.1 million, with an annual increase of 2.9 percent.

If we attain an average of three children per family by 2000, Cairo's population will double in 38 years instead of 26, Cairo's population will be 15.8 million in 2010, and the rate of annual increase will be 1.6 percent. This naturally will be the case if migration to Cairo stops, which it will not as long as there are big differences between the levels of service in the countryside and the towns, particularly the capital.

Cairo: 17.1 Million People in 2000, 23.7 Million in 2010

At the current rate of population increase, Cairo will have 17.1 million people in 2000, its population will account for 25 percent of the entire population of Egypt, and it will have a population of 23.7 million in 2010, accounting for 26 percent of the entire population of Egypt.

If the rate of population increase averages three children per family, Cairo will have 14.7 million /people/ in 2000 and 18.1 million in 2010.

With further improvement, if there are two children per family, Cairo will have 13.7 /million/ in 2000 and 15.8 in 2010.

The Effects of the Population Increase on the Housing Problem

If Egypt's national goal is to create sanitary housing for every citizen, and to eliminate unsanitary and inhuman slums and miasmas, and if the current rate of population increase continues (Egypt increased by 3.7

million between 1976 and 1980, with an average of 5.2 people per family), then new housing for this population increase will have to increase by 720,000 housing units!

The problem of housing in the governorates becomes apparent through the real increase in their populations. Between 1960 and 1976, the population of the governorates increased by 1.4 million families; by comparison, housing increased by 682,000 units. Thus housing was provided for just 49 percent of new families. The rest, numbering 720,000, lived in housing shacks and slums around the towns.

If the national plan for 1978-82 aims at constructing 450,000 new housing units, while the number of new families in the same period increases by 558,000, the housing deficit will remain as it is even if the plan achieves its objectives, and the 1982 deficit will be 958,000 housing units.

If the population increase continues at its present rate and the rate of migration to the towns continues at its present rate of 0.5 percent per year, then 8.4 million new housing units costing 3.5 billion Egyptian pounds will be needed between 1980 and 2000. Between 2000 and 2010 7 million additional new housing units will be required at a cost of 2.9 billion pounds!

If the rate of children per family stabilizes at three, then 5.7 million housing units costing 2.3 billion pounds will be required between 1980 and 2000--15 percent less than the current rate of population increase.

This Excludes Utilities Costs, Which Are Exorbitant

The billions of pounds needed to cope with the population increase, both at present and after it becomes stabilized, do not take into account the costs of public facilities in the form of roads, water, electricity, sewers, schools, hospitals, police stations, judiciary centers and other services. These are exorbitant and will cost billions more than the housing itself.

What Is the Solution?

The day before yesterday I asked Mrs Jihan al-Sadat, the honorary president of the Higher Family Planning Council, for her opinion on the optimum solution to the population problem. She responded enthusiastically and articulately:

"This is the greatest problem of Egypt, and it will be facing our children and grandchildren. It is one of the priorities to which the greatest impetus and effort must be given. The Higher Family Planning Council, which is headed by Dr Mamduh Jabr, has made well-thought-out efforts and well-planned activities in which numerous authorities and ministries have cooperated. There are people who emphasize that development is the best solution, which is true but just to a point. It is true that if women study,

work and produce, their mentality will change and they will tend to plan their families; this is a successful method, without a doubt, but can one educate every woman? Can one find work for every woman? Education is without a doubt a contributing factor but it is a long-lasting, constant process. Guidance is needed, the efforts of the press and the media are needed, and on this occasion I may with appreciation point to the efforts of Mr Safwat al-Sharif, the director of information."

Mrs Jihan al-Sadat expressed her appreciation of domestic efforts in this regard. The American University has started a family planning project in al-Minufiyah Governorate with a $2 million budget and will extend its efforts to two additional governorates. Every organization and individual is requested to cooperate in this and feel responsibility for it. Every family head must take part in responsibility toward his children; his responsibility doubles as the number of his children increases; he should not place the whole burden of education, health and sustenance on the government.

Mrs Jihan al-Sadat expressed her readiness to conduct an expanded, lengthy dialogue with members of the Cairo Rotary Club to discuss the problem in all its dimensions because it deserves full attention.

At the first meeting of the Higher Media Committee on the population problem:

Dr Mamduh Jabr emphasized that it was necessary to knock on every publicity door concerning family planning, such as the doors to publicity among opinion leaders, direct publicity among individuals, and mass publicity among the public through means of communication and the media.

Dr 'Aziz al-Bindari, head of the Family Planning and Population Agency, stresses that media efforts on the population problem must be more concentrated because the media are a powerful means for changing behavior. This will require scientific effort among media people in cooperation with executive agencies. He stressed that all government agencies are responsible for the population problem and, although the issue is a national one, we nonetheless have not yet attained a nationwide treatment and remedy for it. Most discussions and studies continue to take place and revolve around the context of the capital and have not yet reached a broad mass base.

Mr Safwat al-Sharif, head of the Information Authority, stated that it is necessary to consolidate the views of people working in this important, vital sphere lest a gap emerge between what is said and what is actually happening.

Finally, this is the most important problem of all. The population consists of people who require everything that people need in the way of education, health and social care, jobs, incomes, families, housing, services, welfare, protection and security. This means that all aspects are interlinked and come together at the human level: man is the heart of the problem and the heart of the solution, if he becomes convinced, wills and acts.

CLAIMS U.S., ISRAELI SPY NETWORK ACTIVE IN HAMADAN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jan 80 p 9

[Text] The criminal documents of Shapur Bakhtiar and the spies and agents of CIA and MOSSAD fell into the hands of the revolutionary prosecutor of Hamadan.

By discovering the treason documents of Shapur Bakhtiar and those running and supporting the constitution, and also by the capture of one of CIA's and MOSSAD agents in Iran, some of the treasons committed by foreigners and by those who idolize foreigners were uncovered. In an interview, while announcing this, Musavi, the prosecutor of the Islamic revolutionary court in Hamadan added: "Pursuant to confiscation of the properties of Dr Mansur Nurani in Hamadan, who was MOSSAD's number one agent in Iran and particularly in Hamadan, the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor of Hamadan had noted that Nurani, his wife, his daughter, his son-in-law and his other relatives were shareholders of various companies. The court assigned one of our faithful and capable brothers to investigate this sensitive problem. As a result of his tireless efforts in Tehran, several companies, including Sonkor were identified."

Musavi added that further investigations revealed that this company had several modern knitting factories at its disposal, and that after the revolution, certain foreign elements and some of the company officials had stolen some of the fine and delicate spare parts and had removed them from the factory premises causing the closure of those factories for knitting and manufacturing of stockings and socks, draperies and woolen fabrics. According to documents and evidence gathered through investigation, it was known the factory officials stamped the fabrics manufactured by the hands of our Iranian brethren with the stamp of "Miline Germain," and sent them to domestic markets as foreign products. In another part of the interview Musavi stated, "During the investigation of the seized documents and papers it became clear that the managing directors and the chairmen of this company's board of directors, Albert Danialpur, Parviz Danialpur and Danial Danialpur, maintaining their contact with the CIA, with MOSSAD and with Shapur Bakhtiar, were engaged in antirevolutionary activities and, together with Reza Mo'aven another devoted servant of the sinister Pahlavi regime, were directly involved in staging demonstrations by the so-called supporters

of the constitution and in guiding them at Tehran's Ajadiyye [stadium]. In this connection, signs, posters and other documents which were prepared for this purpose were also seized at the factory site.

The head of the Islamic revolutionary court of Hamadan added that since other documents suggesting other treasons may have also been seized to uncover other clandestine treasons of these agents, request was made for permission from the Chief Justice of the Islamic Republic of Iran to investigate the office of the firm and to confiscate all books and records available at its factories. Such permission was granted for the arrest of the three above-mentioned brothers and all the documents available at the factories and we succeeded in arresting only one of the brothers, Albert Danialpur. The other two brothers, Danial Danialpur and Parviz Danialpur, the latter who is Dr Nurani's son-in-law, fled, but we will hopefully capture these two corrupt elements in the near future. It is also anticipated that with their capture and with the completion of investigation many secrets regarding the spy activities of the CIA and MOSSAD agents will be uncovered and will be made public. At the end of this interview Musavi mentioned the names of companies the shares of which were either known to belong to Ziba Nurani, Dr Nurani's daughter and Parviz Danialpur's wife, or were among her auctioned shares, as follows: Aryaland Co.; Aryapad Co.; Fortito Co.; Davaran Co.; the Div-e Sefid Co. and several farms and chicken farms.

At the end of his interview, Musavi promised that the results of any future action will be made availiabe to mass media as soon as the dossier is completed.

CSO: 4906

PUBLIC TRAINING TO COMBAT U.S. 'PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE' URGED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jan 80 p 11

[Text] With the advent of U.S. psychological warfare in our country, we must utilize all the possibilities to be militarily self-sufficient.

In an interview with KEYHAN, referring to the necessity for the participation of people from all walks of life in military training, as well as in theoretical practical training, the supervisor of the National Mobilization Headquarters said, "The enemy has no mercy on anyone. Our information about some countries taken over by superpowers and their resulting misery and misfortune, should teach us a lesson."

In his interview with KEYHAN correspondent, Hojjatoleslam Majd emphasized that with its presence in Iranian waters, the United States has virtually started psychological warfare in our country. We must therefore utilize all the means to be self-sufficient for confrontation with the world devourer. In another part of his statement describing the programs of the Mobilization Headquarters and with respect to the organizations and organs which will cooperate with the army, he said: The army, the gendarmerie, the police, the revolution guards, the committees, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Guidance, the Ministry of Education and Training, the organization of program and budget, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, the reconstruction crusade, the universities, and the intellectuals and thinkers will cooperate with the Mobilization Headquarters.

Then, referring to the work program of the government employees, Hojjatoleslam Majd said: More than 70 to 80 percent of the government employees in various organizations, are in excess. If the work is done well, 20 to 30 percent of the employees could do 100 percent of the work, and the rest should serve in the reconstruction crusade and should engage in our country's reconstruction. Continuing his statements, Hojjatoleslam added: Military training is not the only duty of the Mobilization Headquarters. Political, econmic and educational training are also part of its responsibilities. We stress these points and will utilize the above-mentioned organs and organizations. Public education should be improved. Without education, the public will be drawn into anarchy and terrorism.

In another part of his interview Hojjatoleslam said: Experience has taught us that we should rely on the nation's strength. We can rely on people more than on different organs and organizations. After the Imam's historic and comprehensive message regarding a national mobilization, if we want to struggle against visible and invisible enemies, it is the people's strength which will defend our national and religious sanctities. Therefore, we should create some organizations in the Mobilization Headquarters that would not be dependent on any organization or party. In the past there were many large organizations which were swallowing the nation's wealth and their work did not help eliminate public needs among them, the resistance force, civil defense organization and the army of preparedness and civil mobilization, etc.

In answer to the question of one of the correspondents who asked: Considering your remarks regarding the important role of the Mobilization Headquarters in educational, political and economic problems in addition to its role in military training, why is it that so far no considerable efforts have been made in this respect? Hojjatoleslam said: Not only have there been no substantial results, but there have been no efforts made in this respect either. Because of the military presence of America around the Iranian waters, and because the enemy has practically started psychological warfare in our country, the most important problem under these circumstances is the enforcement of the system of military training throughout the country. Through their attendance in theoretical and practical military training, the public must be mobilized so that in the event of an attack, they would know what to do, how they should annihilate the enemy and how they should prevent the enemy's advance.

When an enemy takes over a country, it tramples national and religious sanctities. Utilizing the information we have about such countries, we should become so self-sufficient in defense, that, in case of an attack by the enemy, we would prevent his advance on every inch of our land. Starting with 10 year-old children to men and women of 60 years of age, they can all play an important and sensitive role in the national Mobilization Headquarters.

CSO: 4906

PARTIES, LEADERS GIVE ADVICE TO NEW PRESIDENT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Jan 80 pp 4, 11

/Article: "Recommendations from Parties and Personalities for the President"/

/Text/ Last Friday the greatest transformation in the history of our country took place. Iran gained a president and the imperial regime of several thousands of years went into the garbage can of history for good. 25 January 1980 will be unforgettable as the day the people of Iran, for the first time, freely went to the polling places and gave the administration of the country's affairs to the person of their choice for 4 years.

Through their votes, the people showed their confidence in Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani Sadr, the distinguished Islamic economist, and placed a heavy obligation upon his shoulders, in the hope that he would be able to don the garb of action under the sagacious leadership of the emam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, requesting the assistance of all the groups on behalf of the legitimate hopes of his compatriots, in particular the downtrodden class.

Bani Sadr, as the first president, is faced with a mountain of problems. The country, under the emam's precepts, has come to resemble a country which has sustained a war. In the course of the 2,500-year existence of the tyrannical imperial regime, many oppressive acts have befallen its inhabitants and, over the past 50-odd years, the merciless, bloodthirsty, rapacious father and son blackened the faces of all their forebears. Reza Khan the tyrant, the man who came to power by command of the "foreigner," committed many oppressive acts, and his murderous son, like the treacherous Yazid, committed such acts against Iran and the Iranians that erasing the traces of his acts of repression will be feasible only with the universal sacrifice of all the classes of the nation, and not even then in a short time, but rather in a long one.

Bani Sadr acquired the lofty status of the office of president at such a moment in time, with the will of the nation; according to the constitution, following that of his excellency the leader, this is the highest of

positions. It is clear that under such circumstances the expectations of the entire people will be greater than at any other time. Now, the question is raised: what must the president of Iran do for Iran?

We raised this question with the parties, groups and prominent personalities of the nation, and we reproduce the answers we received unabridged, with the hope and wish that these groups' and personalities' views will be a guide to solving problems and will help the president in reaching his decisions on the future.

Ayatollah Montazari

It appears that the president must pay attention to several aspects.

He must carry out the constitution and the laws codified in accordance with it by the National Consultative Council to the letter.

He must use young, revolutionary forces in governmental departments and seek refuge from bureaucracy and paper shuffling. He must eliminate excessive administrative expenses and spend resultant surplus expenditures on rural development, the expansion of agriculture and livestock rearing. He must realize that our country will become independent from every aspect when we are self-sufficient in agricultural and industrial output. In brief, Iran is not just Tehran and the big cities--one must pay more attention than before to the productive rural areas.

The president must draw up a program which will reflect the face of the Islamic revolution of Iran in a proper manner abroad. Therefore the embassies of the nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which have the duty of reflecting the face of Iran, must be improved and revolutionary staffs must be assigned to work in them.

From the military standpoint, an enlarged, comprehensive program must be set forth which can properly protect the borders of the country and provide a system whereby the penetration of enemies into our country may be prevented.

The protection of the downtrodden of the world must be at the top of the president of Iran's plans. The restoration of the holy land of Palestine and the al-Aqsa Mosque to the realm of Islam and the Moslems and cooperation aid for our Palestinian brothers are a matter to which the president and the future government must devote substantial attention.

The position of president is a trust from God and for this reason this position must not be a cause of vanity. Rather, the president must serve Islam and the Moslems through his position, and we hope that God will grant the elected president of the nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran success so that he will be able to act on his legitimate duties and duties of conscience.

Eng Mehdi Bazargan

What is expected of the president is that he conform to the constitution, in the sense that he not interfere in, not cause propagands over and not cause trouble for the three branches--the legislative, executive and judiciary. Rather, the basic duty of the president, which the constitution has also determined, is to guard the rights and the limits of these three powers and to prevent them from impinging on one another. According to the constitution, the president is prohibited from governing, planning, ordering or exerting any negative or positive influence on the main pillars of the Islamic republic. Before the constitution, the president appoints a prime minister who, after a vote on the preference of the National Consultative Council, proceeds to select ministers and form his cabinet, in a manner whereby the government has received a vote of confidence from the council.

The bulk of the president's functions and powers is ceremonial in character; he must present the country and the government domestically and abroad. In brief, the president is a flag and a guardian of the constitution and his personality, his past, his character and his actions must be a source of prestige and status for the country and bring the government and the people close together. Of course in my opinion the president must select his prime minister at once and not wait for the formation of the National Consultative Council because now, as in the past, the Revolutionary Council is in practice performing the tasks of the National Consultative Council.

To the question that in view of the emam's message to the effect that "important personages must not sulk," I must state that the people had previously asked me whether I was offering myself as a presidential candidate, and I answered "First let the constitution be codified so that we can see what duties the president has." Meanwhile we must know how this subject is being raised. In addition, one party to the issue is the person of the president; another party is the person to whom the National Consultative Council or the Revolutionary Council shows preference. The third foundation are the requirements and resources of the society and the fourth is the person himself. Whenever these three foundations are attained a person can then say yes or no. In spite of the protests which people are attributing to me, I believe in democracy and I am a proponent of national sovereignty. I respect the vote of the majority of the people and therefore, for me, Mr Bani Sadr is the president of Iran, and I hold him in respect and follow him in accordance with the constitution. I also expect him to follow the constitution in full.

The Islamic Republic Party

Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, member of the Revolutionary Council and one of the prominent personages of the Islamic Republic Party, said the following in response to KEYHAN's question: Under present conditions, the president must adopt a clear, specific position concerning foreign and international

policy which is totally compatible with the anti-imperialistic nature of the Islamic revolution of Iran and he must further this aspect, which is one of the most fundamental and deep-rooted dimensions of the Islamic revolution of Iran, in a decisive and specific fashion. In connection with domestic policy, we know that the anti-dictatorial movement of the Islamic revolution of Iran is still palpably struggling with the remnants and hirelings of the previous regime; the president must adopt a procedure whereby not only will these persons and elements not have an opportunity to strike out at the revolution but he will also fully purge the Islamic nation of Iran of their presence and their conspiracies.

He must resolve the revival of agriculture, the granting of independence to industries, the guaranteeing of security, the creation of a people's Islamic army and other matters in addition to these two views in a proficient manner. Of course according to the constitution, the president cannot carry out any activity on these subjects. These activities must be performed in cooperation with the National Consultative Council, the representatives of the people and the executive organs which will come into office by introduction of the president and the council's vote of confidence. However, since the president is the highest representative and the nation has elected him by its vote, he can have an effective role in guiding the other organs of the nation in the various departments referred to.

Taher Ahmadzadeh

In the sphere of domestic policy, the most important issue is the country's unity and integrity and this depends on the political forces inside the country. These can be mobilized in a specific direction in order to build the country and this must be carried out with such care and generosity that all the revolutionary forces of the country can be mobilized behind a leader, as in the period before the revolution, and get into movement. Thus one can also help resolve the problem of the different ethnic groups of Iran and solve the difficulties arising from that as well.

This issue is worth noting, namely that since the triumph of the revolution narrow-minded people and monopolists caused the dispersion and fragmentation of revolutionary forces.

In the field of foreign policy, one must follow an independent policy which relies on the power of the people, without dependence on the foreign policies of the superpowers.

One must enter into the balance of international politics with a reliance on these domestic forces, supported by faith in the people. In other words, international and domestic policy are two sides of the same coin. To the extent that we pursue harmony and unity among forces and a clear, specific policy from the domestic standpoint, we will be able to be effective in our foreign policy and benefit to our own advantage from international developments.

In the sphere of economics, our Islamic revolution must without a doubt proceed toward a classless, unificationist system. We must set forth a pattern on the economic bases of Islam, /using/ in particular the analogy whereby the prophet of Islam and the pure emams compared the Islamic system to the human body. We must move to create such a system, because the human body, throughout the period of its development, reaches the stage that we are witnessing today, where millions of cells exist alongside one another, bringing nourishment to all cells of the body in adequate amounts from a system of production (the food we bring into the body from outside) and a system of just distribution (which is the circulatory system), no cell receiving more than it needs from this system, each cell offering its work to the system of the body unstintingly, and no cell having a special supply for itself--rather, there is a general supply of fats, sugar and other materials stored in reserve form in special areas of the body so that whenever production encounters difficulties, that is, when food does not reach the human body, foodstuffs enter the distribution system, the flow of blood, from the general storehouse, and continue to reach all cells to the extent of their requirements. Therefore, all cells in the body, specialized and unspecialized, offer their work in this economic system of the body to the body system and receive their requirements from the distribution system.

This is a view of the Islamic economic system, and we must move toward the creation of such a system: "Production to the extent of sufficiency and just distribution."

From the military standpoint, through the same analogy, we can determine our military policy, because as soon as a microbe enters the human body, the entire body is mobilized to repel and destroy it. The white corpuscles of the blood, in their capacity as soldiers defending the body, remove the microbe which has entered, and this is the meaning of the people's army, which is ready to be mobilized and to enter into action as soon as danger appears.

From the standpoint of culture, without a doubt, our Islamic revolution relies on the theory of righteous Islam, but the educational system, the media and all other organs which are part of this relationship must teach the nation the Islamic view, from the standpoint both of the world view and Islamic ideology which presents righteous, revolutionary Islam in a precise manner.

In summary, the time when emotions held sway has to some extent disappeared and our nation, especially the young generation, must become armed with an ideological weapon so that a balance between thought and feeling may be established in the society.

Dr Tavanaianfard

The political revolution has been carried out, but the economic revolution has not. While imperialism's recognized political men have left Iran, its economic hands are still active in Iran. The first duty of the president is to cut off the economic hands of imperialism, that is, to carry out an economic revolution which will eliminate Iran's dependence in deed and not in slogans.

He must eliminate departments which are import-oriented by nature, universities which have no relationship to production in society, assembly industries which are operating in Iran at the price of bankrupting the Iranian economy, as the basic economic hand of imperialism, moribund agriculture, and deficient municipal, public health and cultural services, in their entirety; in their place there should be agricultural small towns in which agricultural processing will exist instead of assembly industries, so that not only will that eliminate the problems of the city dwellers but will also make us no longer need to export 4 million barrels of oil a day.

Economic revolution is unattainable without a scientific revolution and the duty of the first president is therefore to carry out a scientific revolution, which I hope he will be able to do. Since we know that conducting a revolution is one of the duties of the Revolutionary Council, not one of the duties of the president, because the president is not able, either from the standpoint of mass support or from the standpoint of legal and lawful regulations, to carry out such a job, the president is like a driver who is driving the quasi-capitalist oil-dependent car of the Iranian economy. Therefore, basic, revolutionary changes should have been made prior to the election of the president. We all must pray that a miracle may be achieved and that something will happen next year and the coming years which will be different from what happened last year. The most important characteristic of the revolutionary movement of an Islamic government is that officials and managers should be from the masses of the downtrodden, not from the prosperous classes.

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali

In my opinion, the president of the Iranian nation must be a decisive person so that he can establish security throughout the country, especially in the border areas. I have talked with Mr Bani Sadr himself on this subject.

Bani Sadr said, "I will be president for another 8 years," and I told him "If you do not exercise revolutionary action and decisiveness, you will be put to one side in another 8 months." Whay caused me to give him my opinion was, and I emphasize it, that without security, the liquidation of counterrevolutionaries from the ministries and the government departments, a holy war of construction, and the creation of housing and jobs, one can not be hopeful about the future of this country. Heading all these problems

is security; if this meets with failure, the people will choose their way and will elect another president, since the people do not have the patience or forbearance to hold mass funerals.

Dr Peyman of the Fighting Moslems Movement

1. We expect the president, following the path of the emam, to consider American imperialism and its European supporters and aides to be the greatest basic enemy, to continue fighting it by mobilizing the masses until its internal bases are totally eliminated, and to take steps to create a front of the downtrodden and all those fighting against imperialism.

2. He should give no value to Western democracy and numerical majorities, which have no base in belief, and emphasize Islamic democracy, which is a democracy of belief.

3. He should continue to expose compromised liberalism and pseudo-religious reactionary reformists before the people.

4. He should seriously proceed to form a mass army of 20 million people and arm the people to guard the gains of 100,000 martyrs and struggle against counterrevolution.

5. The processes of disclosure of the students of the emam's way have become now the way of the masses and he must condemn every kind of accommodation with America.

6. He must establish the consultative system, the basis for organizing the masses and the administrative, political and decisionmaking organizations of society and prepare the groundwork for the creation of an educational revolution.

7. He should rectify the economic crisis basically, and industry and agriculture, by relying on the creative work of the masses and by eliminating the relations of dependent capital and feudalism. He should refrain from any kind of new dependence on European, Japanese and American imperialists.

8. He should settle the issue of ethnic groups on the basis of the emam's message by implementing the consultative system plan, eliminating feudal relationships and by common anti-imperialist mobilization. He should cloak the emam's promise concerning supplementary codification of the constitution as soon as possible in the garb of action.

9. He should make his social point of emphasis the downtrodden masses of the society, same as the emam, and should consider elimination of the exploitative classes to be the basic goal of his social programs.

The Organization of Holy Warriors of the Islamic Revolution

We summarize the overall duties of the president in the following six subjects:

1. Total devotion to the emam on the basis of the principle of the guardianship of the religious jurist, in order to avoid fundamental deviations and to avoid drawing society toward a non-Islamic coalition government.

2. Selection and employment of Moslem staffs who believe in the Islamic revolution.

3. Pursuit of an independent policy, neither eastern nor western, but rather Islamic, considering America to be the basic enemy and the major devil.

4. Total, exact implementation of the constitution of the Islamic republic.

5. Revolutionary reconstruction on the basis of Islamic criteria in all structures of society.

6. Non-accommodation and decisive action in the face of counterrevolution.

Ali Asghar Hajj Seyyed-Javadi

Ali Asghar Hajj Seyyed-Javadi also stated today, in a telephone conversation with KEYHAN's correspondent, "In my opinion the first, immediate, essential matter as far as the office of the president is concerned is that of establishing order, that is, making all groups and the people understand that they should so to speak harmonize themselves within the framework of the constitution, from the standpoint of security, and so to speak permit the president, in the context of national cooperation and reconciliation, to exert his powers in the field of establishing security--that is, in reality, one can say that the officials of the country have not in any case been successful yet in the past year because of copious problems, resulting from the extirpation of the satanic power, in establishing order, which is the fundamental foundation for reviving and reconstructing the economic and social requirements of society. As a consequence I consider that pressure groups, and, in any event, groups have felt or arrogated to themselves the right to be able to independently /exercise/ special powers or ideological struggles; as a result, they have kept groups responsible for guaranteeing security from obtaining the power to do so.

A second matter for the president is that from the very beginning he should respect the people's sovereignty over their destiny, an important portion of which has been reflected in the constitution; that is to say, the people should feel that the president and his government, as the decision-making power, as well as feeling responsibility for order and security, will also

be attentive to two basic matters--first, respect for the people's freedoms and social rights, and second, the implementation of fundamental economic, social and cultural programs in order to create an advanced, progressive society.

Professor Ali Tehrani

Concerning the current president, in this stage of the Islamic revolution of Iran, I had a program a short while ago on the radio and television in which I declared my views explicitly. It was to have been broadcast on the night of the elections but for some reason which I do not know it was not. In any event I believe that in the first stage we must identify our revolution--that is, we must see what the reason has been why we have managed in this stage to eradicate the devil and the devilish through unity and a strong will and to cause the downtrodden to triumph over the haughty. Now, how has it come about that in the second phase following the triumph of the revolution, which, according to the command of the emam, is the stage of construction, we have been afflicted with all these opportunists, power-seekers and people seeking position and have come into conflict and have clashed with one another? Without a doubt these conflicts among the country's executive organs have caused a proliferation of decisionmaking centers which will automatically, if they continue, cause all the blood of the martyrs to go to waste. Thus, if we want our Islamic revolution to move in its proper, straight course and remain free of deviations, these decision-making centers must be unified (of course under the emam's leadership).

In my opinion, the president must be a person who can be the connecting link among the three powers, that is, the legislative, executive and judiciary powers, which the nation has at the present time attained through a complete awareness of this matter.

Another important matter which we must mention is that the job has not ended with the election of the president; the nation, as it devotes full attention to the election of devout, chaste deputies, must help the president so that he may be able to consummate his duties on behalf of the revolution in a revolutionary fashion.

Dr Ahmad Sadr Hajj Seyyed-Javadi

In my opinion, at the outset the president must observe the constitution and all its principles completely, without egotism or factionalism, since he is the protector of the constitution and guardian of the downtrodden, through all the torment and agony and a cost in blood of thousands of the sons of this land. In the second place--which is now a subject of attention and which the emam's commands are also emphasizing--is the matter of help and assistance from others: the president must accept this aid and take into consideration all forms of sacrifice of groups and associations with the utmost seriousness and sincerity.

In the third place, the president must establish security in the region and preserve what the emam is also always stressing, namely unity of expression, since this itself will both bring about security and devote sufficient attention and care to the condition of the downtrodden and the unfortunate.

In the fourth place, which is the most important stage, is the protection of personal and social freedoms in accordance with the constitution, especially the freedom of expression, assembly and the press. The president must not consider newspapers to be foreign agents and he must not be aggravated by worthwhile criticism. In summary, the president must be the protector of the constitution, look after it completely and realize the wishes of the people.

Dr Parsa of the National Front

First, the president does not have enough powers in the constitution to be able to be the basis for a transformation; however, in any event, he is the second person in terms of the power he holds in the country and can accomplish useful work. In my opinion, if the elections to the National Consultative Council are postponed, the best path for the president will be for the Revolutionary Council to be dissolved and for him to request the emam that a "Revolutionary Council of National Understanding" be formed from all groups and parties, even respected persons from the provinces, after which a national unity government will be formed which will be composed of parties, groups and factions so that God willing possible rifts will be eliminated and all classes of the nation will make peace with one another and proceed along the road toward unity.

Kianuri

Nuroddin Kianuri, leader of the Tudeh Party, said today, in a brief telephone communication in response to KEYHAN's correspondent's question, "In the utmost brevity, the president of Iran in our view must follow the anti-imperialist path whose basic thrust is to fight the domination of the colonized world by American imperialism, follow the path which Emam Khomeyni follows in favor of the people truthfully, properly and without sabotage, and act on behalf of the unity of all anti-imperialistic popular forces."

Dr Kazem Sami

Dr Kazem Sami also stated, in a telephone conversation with KEYHAN's correspondent, "In the context of the duties and powers which have been spelled out in the framework of the constitution, the president of Iran is able to act, because it is generally observed that the people request things of the president which are not part of his duties, but, because our people have not dealt with a person whom they themselves elected for years, it is natural for them to expect the first person elected to meet all their requests and demands." Dr Sami added, "The first duty of the president is

to establish necessary coordination among the executive organs and fragmented legal powers, such as the National Consultative Council and the judiciary, in connection with the leader.

"Second, in view of the spiritualism which dominates in the current atmosphere, and in view of the rights of the people under the constitution, the president, since he is the executor of the constitution, can realize the human freedoms and social rights explicitly set forth in this constitution."

Dr Sami added, "Solving the society's economic problems must receive attention because we are living in a dependent society, and therefore, with the economic principles provided for in the constitution, we must move as rapidly as possible toward independence and self-sufficiency. Most important of all, however, is guardianship of the government of the people and realization of government of the people, so that all persons in this country may freely enter into his destiny and that of his country, take part both in decision-making and implementation and management, and make the establishment of the consultative system the mode of his aspirations, a portion of which is also the subject of my views in the above lines."

In another part of this conversation Dr Sami stressed, "An issue which is extremely important at the present time is the attainment of a form of unity among executive powers and prominent revolutionary social groups, and their cooperation with the president. This must fundamentally be carried out about an axis and prism which will not be remote from the constitution. I think that since the most important issue of our revolution is the leadership of this revolution and the perpetuation of this leadership, arrangements must be made whereby use may be made of the guidance of the leader of the revolution in establishing a leadership pattern. I think that this leadership and leadership pattern can benefit from the instructions and the guidance of the emam in attaining the objectives of the revolution and can provide a stable condition for the perpetuation of the revolution."

The spokesman for the People's Holy Warriors, in the course of a call, declared "We will soon announce our views concerning the president in an official statement."

11887
CSO: 4906

JAPAN MAY SELL IRAN 30,000 TRUCKS, PREPAID

Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 2 Feb 80

[Text] Tokyo, 2 Feb (KYODO)--Iran is planning to import 30,000 trucks to make up for production slowdown and drastic declines in imports, Japanese trading company sources said Saturday.

They said Iranian importers have asked some trading house about the possibility of importing Japanese-made trucks.

If shipments of Japanese-made vehicles are realized, it would be the first time in more than a year that trucks would be exported from Japan to Iran.

Since the revolutionary government came to power early last year, Iran has stopped purchasing foreign-made vehicles.

The Iranian Government adopted the policy of a ban on imports of foreign cars to bring up and protect its own industry and to expand employment.

Japan was able to ship only 4,991 cars under contracts already signed before the government's new policy went into force and also under the so-called "knock down" (local assembly) system.

Iran was Japan's major customer for cars in the Middle East along with Saudi Arabia. In 1978, Japan shipped about 66,000 passenger cars and trucks.

The sources said Iran presently is in need of trucks because production has slowed down and a shortage of vehicles became apparent after the revolutionary government seized power.

They said Iran was looking for 1,600-2,000 cc class trucks, the type of vehicles Japan has been fully capable of supplying.

The sources said Iran reportedly planned to import 30,000 units--15,000 for official use and the remaining 15,000 for private sectors.

It was not certain, however, whether all goes well for Japan to win orders for all 30,000 trucks.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry Maintains a strict policy of not approving shipments to Iran unless payments are completely guaranteed.

Japan must also take into consideration whether truck exports would run into conflict with America's economic sanctions against Iran.

CSO: 4920

STATEMENT BY PIERRE JUMAYYIL IN FAVOR OF PEACE

Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 28 Dec 79 p 3

[Article: "Following the Lebanese Front Meeting, Jumayyil Says the Division Threatens All Countries in the Area"]

[Text] The Lebanese Front held its weekly meeting yesterday in Dier Awkar, attended by President Camille Sham'un, the leader of the Kataebs, Pierre Jumayyil, and by Edward Honein and Fu'ad Ephrem Bustani.

At the end of the meeting, the Front published a communique in which it offered its best wishes to the Lebanese people for Christmas. Having emphasized that Libya will emerge "victorious in the trial it is undergoing," the communique expresses the wish that the Lebanese people will find peace and sovereignty again. As he left Deir Awkar, President Sham'un refused to make any statement. Questioned on the situation in the south, the leader of the PNL [National Liberal Party of Camille Sham'un] merely indicated that he was waiting for fuller information on this subject.

For his part, the leader of the Kataebs stressed the necessity to engage in a "frank" dialog among the Lebanese. "It is not sufficient to reject the division in words," stated Mr Jumayyil. "We must work against this division that all the Lebanese people reject because it would constitute a disaster for all the parties in conflict. The division is in danger of extending to all the countries in the area, especially since the majorities seem to be relapsing into a fear complex." The leader of the Kataebs also stressed that Lebanese Christians and Moslems wish to safeguard the formula of coexistence they adopted when working out the national pact in 1943. Mr Jumayyil stated, moreover, that it is necessary for all parties to "adopt a constructive attitude with the object of arriving at a common entity and in the shadow of a sole sovereignty." In conclusion, the leader of the Kataebs recalled that the Lebanese people, "who are accustomed to freedom and democracy, would not tolerate any kind of hegemony over the country."

Let us point out, moreover, that following the Lebanese Front meeting, President Sham'un talked with the new ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, as well as with Bechir Jumayyil. When he came out of president Sham'un's office, Bechir Jumayyil made the following statement in answer to a journalist who asked him if 1980 will be the year of reconciliation among the Maronites: "There is no problem among the Maronites. Although President Frangie left the ranks, that does not mean that the Maronites are in disagreement. In addition, I do not think that the North has left the path that we are following."

On the subject of the photograph that appeared in the press yesterday, showing six of the Zghortiote hostages taking part in the Christmas mass at the Kataeb headquarters in Achrafieh, the head of the Lebanese Forces stated: "We asked the Organization of Revolutionaries of the North (Northern Kataeb), for humanitarian reasons, to allow the hostages to participate in the mass. The organization agreed to our request and we thank them for that attitude. This gesture was not aimed at harming anyone, but at changing a specific situation. I think the matter is developing in this direction."

11550
CSO: 4800

REACTION TO BOMBING OF DAR AL-FATWAH

Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 28 Dec 79 p 3

[Article: "The Bombing of Dar al-Fatwah Continues To Arouse General Indignation"]

[Text] The bombing attempt last Tuesday on the Dar al-Fatway premises continues to arouse general indignation, and yesterday several well known people condemned this criminal act, while officials, with the minister of justice at the head, are increasing their orders to the different departments concerned so that the authors of the attempt are found and published.

Yesterday at 0100 hours a meeting was held at Dar al-Fatwah, attended by a hundred Islamic personalities, who examined the attempt, its causes, and the objective that was sought by its perpetrators. A commission was formed and put in charge of following up on this matter. A communique is to appear on this subject. The members of the commission, the chairman of which is Chafin Wazzan, were to meet in the afternoon with the mufti of the republic, Sheykh Hassan Khaled, who arrived at Dar al-Fatwah while the meeting was still going on under the chairmanship of Sheykh Soubhi Saleh.

Among those present was Minister Talal Merhabi, as well as other Shi'ite personalities, including Sheykh Mohammed Farhat, director general of the Shi'ite Supreme Council.

In addition to this meeting, the attempt against Dar al-Fatwah was the subject of a number of statements to the press. Several well known people, including the minister of information and justice, Youssef Gebrane, and the minister of foreign affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, condemned this criminal act. Tammam Salam met with Mufti Khaled in the company of Moustafa Beydoun to express his indignation and condemnation of Tuesday's bombing.

In Tripoli, the matter of the dynamiting of the Dar al-Fatwah premises was examined during a meeting held in the northern capital and attended by President Rachid Karame and a great number of Islamic and Ulema personalities, among them Cadi Cherie and Sheykh Taha Saboungi.

At the end of the meeting, which was held at President Karame's home, those present made press statements, unanimously condemning this criminal act and denouncing these cowardly procedings.

In addition, the progressive parties and forces of North-Libya published a communique denouncing the attempt against Dar al-Fatwah and reaffirming the solidarity between the National Movement and the Islamic peoples against Zionist maneuvers and plots carried out by agents and terrorists.

Finally, we note that yesterday Yasser 'Arafat sent one of his assistants, Aboul Zaim, to Mufti Khaled to express the disapproval of the Resistance following the attempt.

11550
CSO: 4800

MARONITE LEADER DISCUSSES CHURCH'S ROLE IN SOLVING LEBANON'S PROBLEMS

Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 28 Dec 79 p 4

/Article: "The Head of the Maronite Community Chastizes 'The Instigators of Social Troubles'"/

/Text/ Yesterday, at the Convent of Notre Dame de Louayzeh, when he opened the regular meeting of the Catholic patriarchs and bishops of Lebanon, the Maronite patriarch of Antioch and all the East, His Beatitude Mar Antonius Brutus Kuraysh,emphasized most particularly the current social problems in Lebanon, stressing in this regard that "Lebanese society needs a breath of fresh air." He also expressed a hope that the proceedings of the Assembly which he was chairing would result in a "real, objective view" of the situation, "one that could diagnose the true causes of the social troubles, "without fear of going so far as to chastize the instigators and provokers."

Following are some lengthy extracts of His Beatitude, the patriarch Kuraysh's opening speech.

"From both sides--and why should there by two sides--there are reprimands, conditions, retaliatory measures, blockades, and threats. I am pleased to pay a sincere and cordial tribute to all those who have brought the aid of their influence and devotion to these unahppy circumstances. I add my tribute to the tribute that has already been paid them by all upright people.

"The world, scandalized, is following the facts as they occur. We must constantiy use every effort everywhere--and I can assure you that I have spared nothing--to make those people who are shocked or discouraged by our division understand that this is a new stage in the plot against Libya. Those who, within the country or outside it, have some interest in ruining this country, are now attacking what will give it back the strength of life: unity among the Lebanese people. These instigators of division, whom I have branded with infamy throughout the past 5 years, are making an exhibition of us to the world. They want the world to judge us as imposters, since the acts of vengeance and the words of hate belie the statements--which are so truthful, however--that what the Lebanese people

are seeking and defending is a life of freedom and dignity, a respect for rights, a love of justice, and relations based on charity. With you, the fathers and pastors of the faithful in our churches, we invite these brother-antagonists to become once again brother-protagonists of peace and charity.

Unity Without a Rift in Tunis

"In this return to the authentic Lebanese identity, we will find that together we will be capable of getting back on the path of history, the hsitory that we will be proud to pass on to future generations. The Arab world, and international circles, have not hidden their appreciation of the closeknit unity of the Lebanese position adopted at the Tunis Conference. Those who have a true and sincere friendship for Lebanon can breath easily because of it. The people of Lebanon almost did not believe it, since for so long and so hard have they desired such an example of firmness in unity.

"We heartily desire that this unity, so recently affirmed, be strengthened more and more in the face of everything that, from the East or the West, is already working to break our ties. Southern Lebanon is ours, and none can claim to be more concerned than we are. This country has suffered only too much from mercenaries and volunteers to not pull itself together and demand from the world that the most basic imperatives of human rights, of the right of peoples in their country, of the right that now governs international relations, should be respected. No principle, no precept from either God or man, gives authorization to violate these sacred rights and to claim to act in the name of religion. Even yesterday, in a friendly country, a high place of religion for hundreds of millions of men, the most sacred buildings of these hundreds of millions of believers were desecrated, still in the name of religion. Where are our times leading us? Will there be a return to religious fanaticisms banished by all religions, or to a war of ideologies, inhumane and without mercy, which will cause the death of millions of human beings through hunger, thirst, and destitution?

Social Problems

"Today we are gathered to study a situation that concerns us even more profoundly than it saddens the times in which we live and threatens with the most serious dangers the days of our future. An analysis of the social situation, the situation resulting from the demographic structure of Lebanon and the situation created by these murderous years, and a study of the problems it raises, forces itself upon our attention in order to serve this country and upon our most lively interest to fulfill our mission as pastors. This is merely a theoretical distinction; for this Lebanon and for our churches:

"we share, with our sons and our brothers the vicissitudes of these times and their development;

"As leaders, we take care that the Lebanese people are assured of environments that guarantee and even promote full development;

"We claim for the sons of this country living conditions and a style and organization of life that can demonstrate their adherence to the highest spirigual and moral vlaues and their participation in initiatives to further civilization and progress.

"1. We must, as I have said, share the concerns of our national and ecclesiastical society. What does that mean exactly? That I desire that from our proceedings will emerge a real and objective view of the situation. Without painting too gloomy a picture, we must awaken people's awareness to the gravity of the situation. It would also be disastrous to let ourselves be deluded by any unfounded optimism. What is important, above all in our times, is that we have the courage of our opinions and the boldness to diagnose the true causes of social troubles, without being afraid to go so far as to chastize the instigators and perpetrators.

"Lit by the evangelical lamp and the conciliar orientations that allow the signs of these times to be interpreted, this vision of things will arouse in the Lebanese people and in the hearts of the sons of our churches a burst of responsible thinking, even if this thinking was disquissing. The Lebanese people, in the euphoria of the prosperous years, were afraid to think, fearing disillusion. They supported themselves with a social policy of improvisation; the mountains became depopulated, production atrophied, consumption bordered on voracity, fringes were born, often produced artifically, liberalism protected monopolies and ruined small businesses, the civil service, drawing excessive amounts of people, perished . . . a whole social regime was undermined and people refused to think.

"Unawareness led fatally to inaction, to inertia, following a total failure of responsibility. The Lebanese people, not knowing where they were going, could not, nor did they want to, act. They had even become powerless to react. On every level, we helped in exhausting our heritage; our spiritual, national, and social identity was progressively becoming more blurred. Spontaneous fortunes were made in a night, creating envy, and the sensational bankruptcies left us indifferent; social scandals no longer shook people's consciences. From unawareness to abulia, to inaction, to irresponsibility--a whole chain of forces that pushed us into the abyss. The moment has come to call on our compatriots and our faithful to leap up: 'It is time to emerge from this lethargy.'

Social and Human Ecology

"2. Our mission as pastors urges to to recall the imperatives of a healthy social and human ecology. How fortunate, in this regard, is the study followed by the preparatory seminary. As part of the development of this plan, an analysis of the social situation is prescribed. It is thus our duty, venerable brothers, to watch attentively over the realities and demands of the various frameworks of this social life.

"Seen in its human environment, our society puts before us two categories for which the Church has a special concern: the poor and the young. We do not forget that among the Messianic signs, Jesus included 'the evangelization of the poor.' In one of our documents we are presented with a sociological analysis on the subject of the impoverishment of the mountain, of the world of agriculture, of the world of manual labor in all its various aspects. For them, also, the evangelical message demands justice, equity, security, stability, human improvement. Our Church, at all levels and in all its bodies, is not completely innocent of abandoning certain classes to poverty.

"As for the young, if we want to keep in our minds the fact that they are the riches and the hope of the Church, they require priority attention and concern from us. They are right to desire to build a better world. These young people, in spite of everything we are tempted to blame them for, are, deep down and often without knowing it, in search of evangelical values: they want truth, justice, love. They have already been unfairly judged when they were thought incapable of energy and impervious to ideals. We, as pastors, should take care that these impulses blossom and we must preserve them from misleading attractions of violence, corruption, the intoxication of power, the anguish that turns to defiance, that "sickness of spirit" which makes rebels against everything and for nothing. It is for us to think about the problem of integrating them after years of confusion, the problem of their livelihood when the time comes to get into the work harness, and many other problems which their simple faces seem to ask us about.

Rising Prices

"Prices are rising, frighteningly, and wages are only palliatives. Here again, we must make the voice of reason heard--the voice of conscience, justice, temperance, charity. It is our duty to seek, together with the leaders, the organizers of the collective life, for real ways to fight against progressive poverty, to avoid the fatal alienation of our identity. To the state and to all of us falls the urgent duty of seeking remedies that cure. No one can accept any more false sedatives. In the hearts of the Lebanese people a love for productive work must return; in Lebanese society a veneration for work must return. Callused hands must become once again a sign of pride. Collective organization of mutual insurance societies, cooperatives, assurance companies, trade union movements, associations of all kinds and levels are to instill a true spirit of social responsibility and are to develop in the direction of national solidarity and collective complementarity.

"In truth, we must dispel the misunderstandings and exaggerations that surround the goods said to belong to the Church. It is time that we set up in each church a methodical inventory of these goods and an objective interpretation of the facts. It is time to put an end to the dealings of those who fish in troubled waters. The pooling in each church of the

facts and the possibilities, together with the organization of truly pastoral councils endowed with an ecclesiastical spirit, will instigate us into undertaking initiatives that could cause a magnificent pastoral, social, and spiritual improvement.

"We would then be completely in an environment of evangelical humility. In order to save humanity, Christ took on the status of a servant, even a 'slave.' In truth God, 'he humbled himself even to death on the Cross.' We like to recall this saving humility at Christmastime.

"Lebanese society needs a new breath, the breath of the Spirit which assures the Church 'unity of communion and ministry' (LG /expansion unknown/ No 4). In an adjusted pastoral society, we could then 'gather and encourage the great family of our flock so that all, conscious of their duty, would live and act in a communion of Charity' (CD /expansion unknown/ No 16).

"The social dimensions of this Charity have also been forgotten. The Synod has spoken of it with particular insistence. It states in effect that modern man cannot disassociate himself from the social debt, the tax . . . .

"In consideration of this social dimension of Charity, and in full awareness of solidarities, the Church in Lebanon, for its part and taking account of its capabilities, means to commit its resources and its institutions. Let no one, from now on, avoid his responsibilities; not the state, which is the organizing power of collective life and to whom we will express our legitimate claims; nor the social groups, either those of a religious nature, such as the various faiths, nor those of a professional nature, such as the trade unions, nor those of a political nature, such as the parties and gatherings of politicians, from whom we expect a healthy understanding and effective cooperation. Let no one, from now on, escape among the various levels of Lebanese society. Businessmen and men of finance, companies and enterprises, small landowners, farmers, or workers. You are, all of you, concerned by our conclusions and our appeals. Even more directly, so are all those who are tied by their membership in the Church. The time has gone when they could claim to expect everything from a Church in which they forgot that they forgot that they were the component parts. We thus hope that priests, monks, nuns, and the faithful will be as one with their pastors to increase the social institutions: cooperatives, mutual assurance societies, hospitals, various schools, orphanages, homes for the aged, and all institutions likely to contribute to the social improvement of the dear people of Lebanon. Above all, we must kindle them, in the services they perform, with the spirit of the immeasurable charity of Jesus Christ.

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DEMANDS BY INHABITANTS EXPELLED FROM DAMUR

Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 28 Dec 79 p 3

/Article: "Inhabitants From Damur Threaten to Take Legal Action Against the State"/

/Text/ The Rally of the Inhabitants of Damus have sent a question to the prime minister, Salim Huss, and the minister of finance, Ali el-Khalil, asking what the state is planning to do to compensate the farmers and landowners of Damur whose houses have been destroyed and whose lands have been exploited for almost 4 years by the (Palestinian) occupants of this area.

In a note signed in their name by Antoine Choueri, the inhabitants of Damur expressed surprise that the prime minister gave the political council of Beirut, an agency of the National Movement, the sum of 1.3 million pounds taken from the aid of 18 million supplies by an Arab state in South Libya, at a time when the people originally from Damur are still waiting to be able to go back to their homes.

The note adds that the state is responsible for this state of affairs, and that the inhabitants of Damur, displaced from their homes, mean to sue the authorities. These authorities, says the note, cannot assert that the region of Damur is not under their control, since the forces of law are present there.

The document presented by Mr Choueri states that the farmers from Damur intend to claim from the government 500 million pounds in damages and interests.

The people expelled from Damur mention at the end of their note that the minister of finance, Ali el-Khalil, stated recently to the press that the state will award compensation to the tobacco planters of South Libya because they have not been able to work their lands on account of recent events. On this basis, the farmers of Damur also claim compensation, and announce that they will soon hold a press conference during which they will make known the methods of their planned recourse against the state.

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QULAYLAT WARNS OF DANGER OF NEW CIVIL WAR

Beirut L'ORIENT-LE JOUR in French 28 Dec 79 p 3

/Article: "Qulaylat Warns Against a Return to the Rifts of 1943"/

/Text/ The leader of the Movement of Independent Nassirians (Murabitun), Ibrahim Qulaylat, stated yesterday that "the solution to the Lebanese problem cannot be worked out without taking into account the real causes of the crisis, which themselves are a result of the 1943 agreement. If these causes persist," continued Mr Qulaylat, "we will have to prepare ourselves for a new civil war that is in danger of being more violent and even more destructive than that of 1975."

After stressing that the Lebanese will reject any form of division, the leader of the Mourabitoun stated that the "Lebanese" solution to the crisis should be based on "the unity of Lebanon, the fact that it belongs to the Arab world, and its development," as well as on the "breaking of any ties between the isolationists and the Zionists."

Mr Quylaylat also affirmed that the majority of the Lebanese have realized that "denominational adherences and their socioeconomic repercussions are no longer enough to restore the basis of the fatherland, especially since these denominational adherences are at the root of all the events and all the wars that Lebanon has known since its independence."

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